STORY BY
YOSHINOBU AKITA

ART BY
MURAJI

Sorcerous Stabber ORIHEN

VOLUME
[2]

HEED MY CALL, BEAST! PART 2

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THE EVERLASTING ESTATE.

YUP. AGAIN.

WHAAA?!

AGAIN?!

CHAPTER 5: BALDANDERS

THE WRITING'S TOO STIFF.

DOUBT IT. IT WAS PROBABLY CHILDMAN, THE *OTHER* JERK-OFF IN BLACK PAJAMAS.

THAT SHRIMP-GUY FROM THIS AFTERNOON WROTE THIS?

GUESS THAT MEANS THEY DIDN'T FIND IT.

I HAD A FEELING THEY'D SNEAK IN WHILE WE WERE OUT.

"YOU SHALL HAVE THE SWORD READY TONIGHT," HUH...

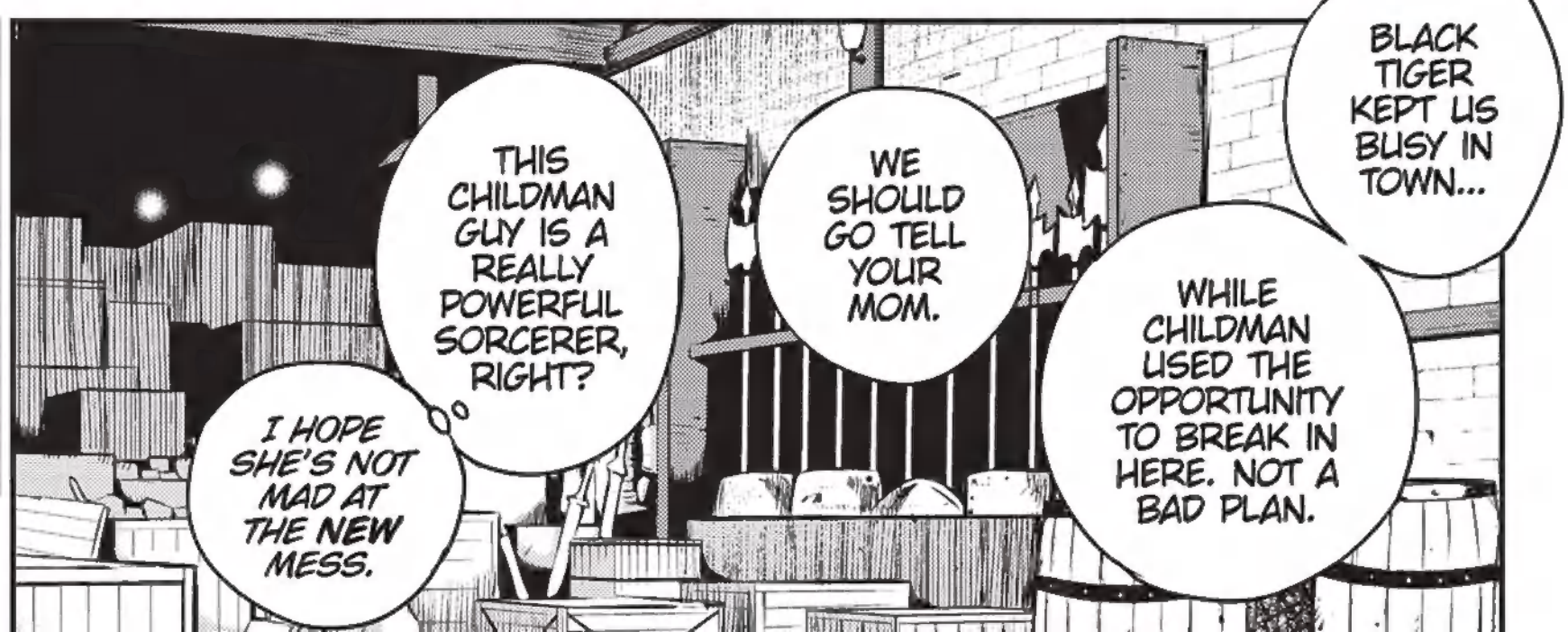
WHATEVER. THEY WANTED THE SWORD OF BALDANDERS...

BUT IT'S STILL A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK HERE.

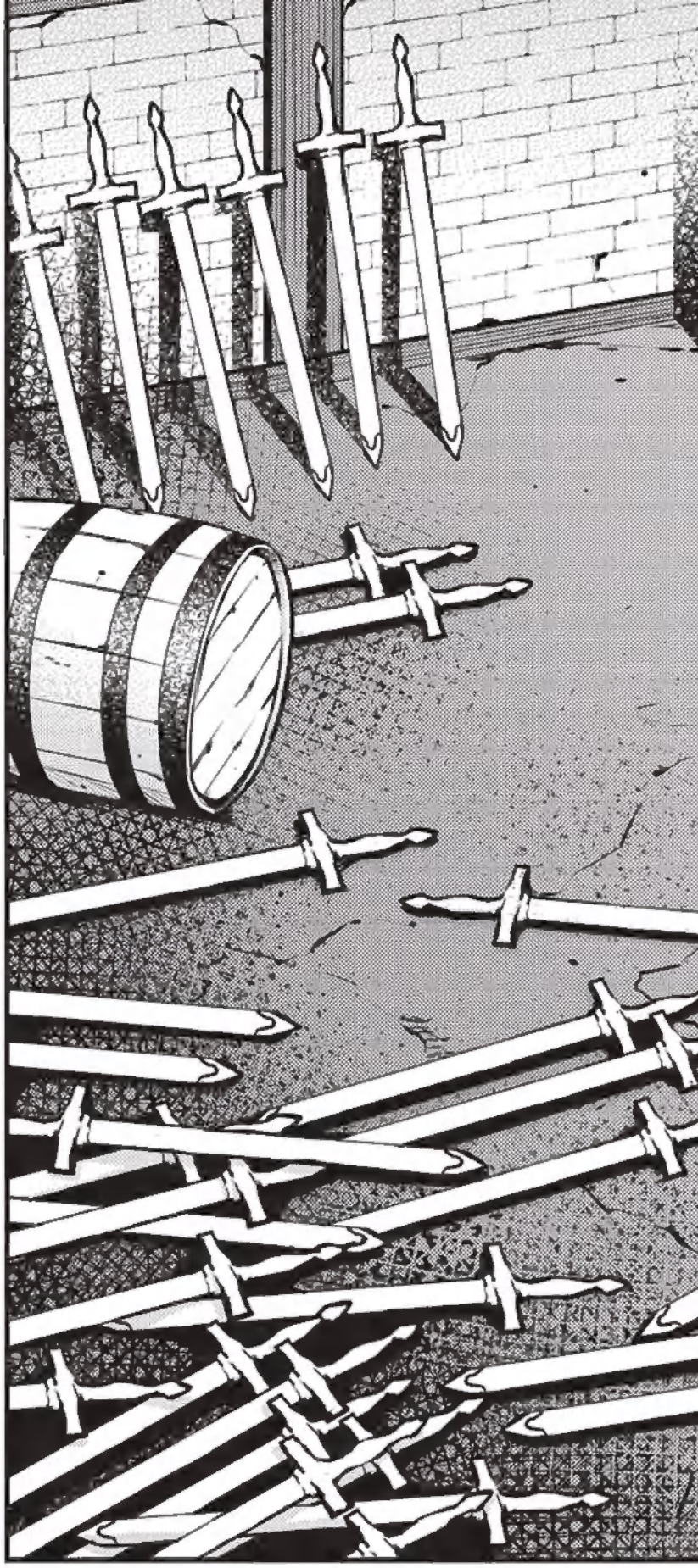
TMP

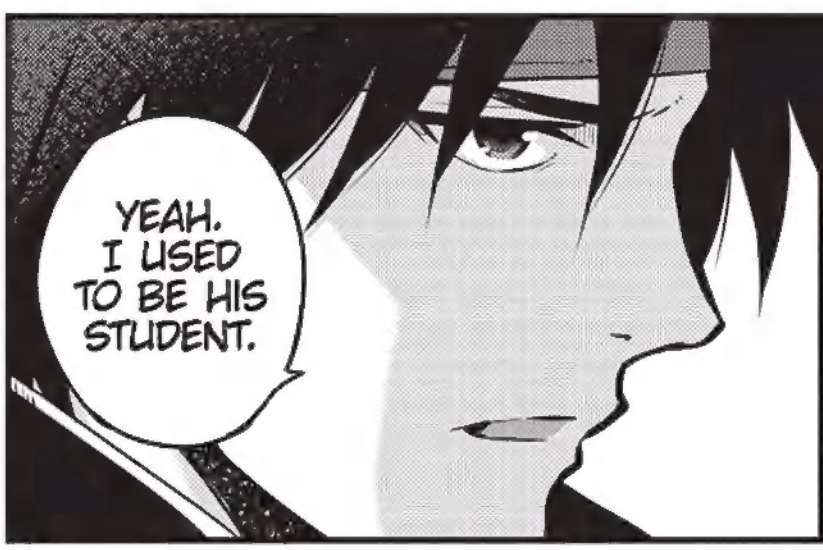
CHAPTER 5: BALDANDERS

Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN



HE'S ARGUABLY THE MOST POWERFUL SORCERER ON THE CONTINENT.





JUMP

YOW! WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?!

THIS PLACE TURNED INTO A REAL DUMP!

EEP!

LOOK WHO'S BACK.

JOLT

GULP.

NOT THE KIND OF GUY YOU WANT AFTER YOU.

OH...

IF YOU WANT THE REALLY VALUABLE INFO I FOUND, GET ON YOUR KNEES AND BEG--

BROTHER, COME HELP ME!

THIS IS BORING.

WHEN YOU'RE A FRIGGIN' GENIUS LIKE ME, YOU DON'T NEED SOME DUMB LIBRARY TO GET ANSWERS.

JEEZ.

STOMP ドカ

STOMP ドカ

DON'T IGNORE ME!

BOING

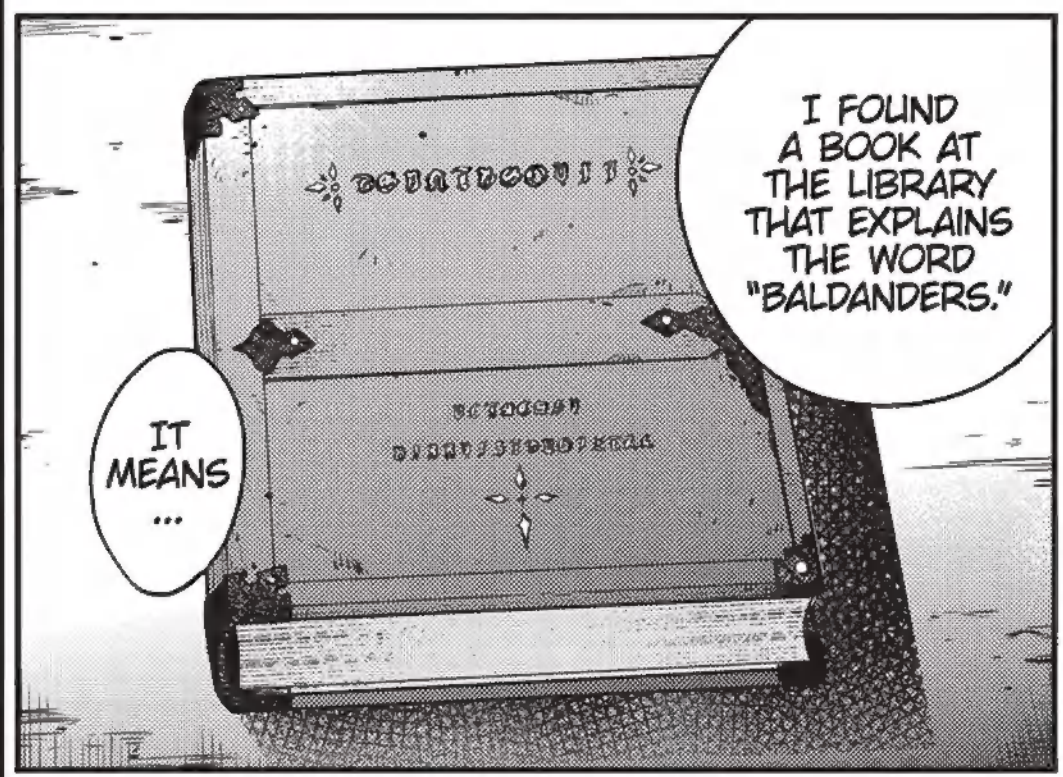
SO. GOT AN UPDATE FOR ME?

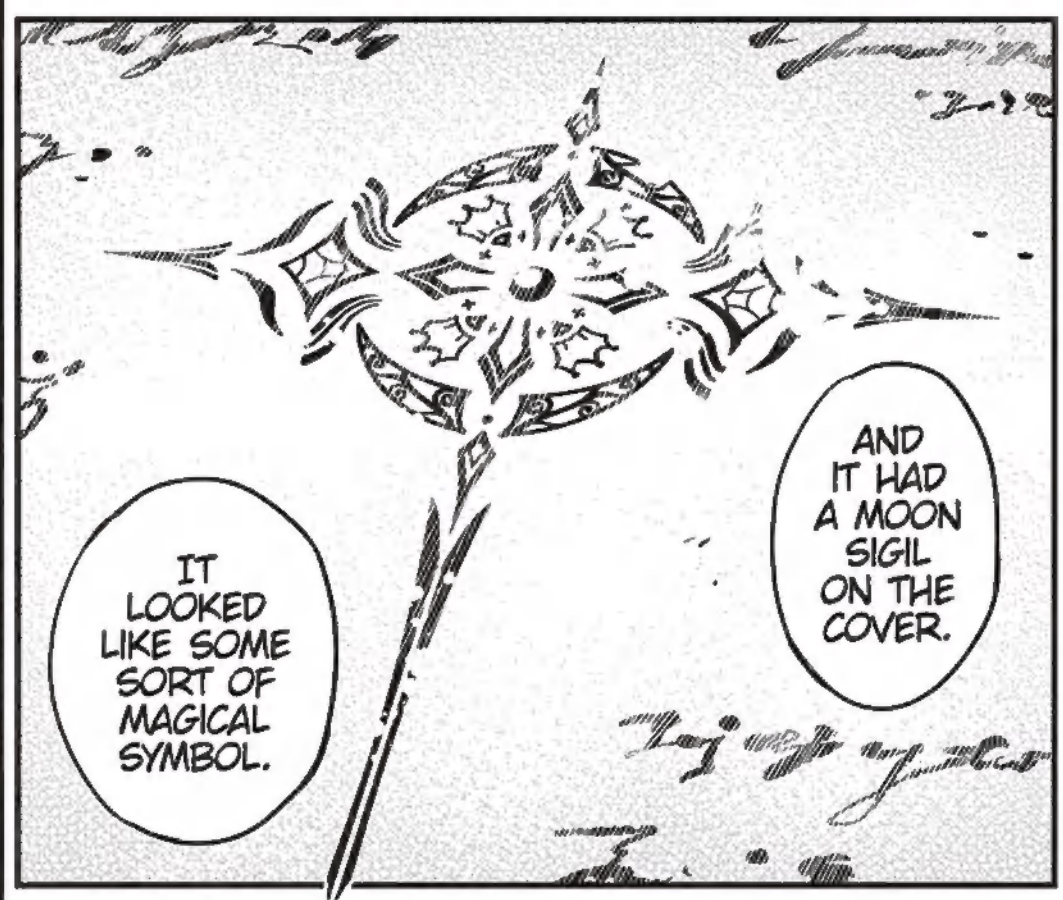
Y-YEAH.

LIKE A TRANS-FORMATION SPELL.

AND AZALIE WAS EXPERI-MENTING ON A SWORD WHEN SHE...

THEY HAVE TO BE CONNEC-TED.





FLICKER
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.
FLICKER

HOW MUCH DID YOU LIKE THIS... FRIEND?
ENOUGH TO WANT TO MARRY HER?

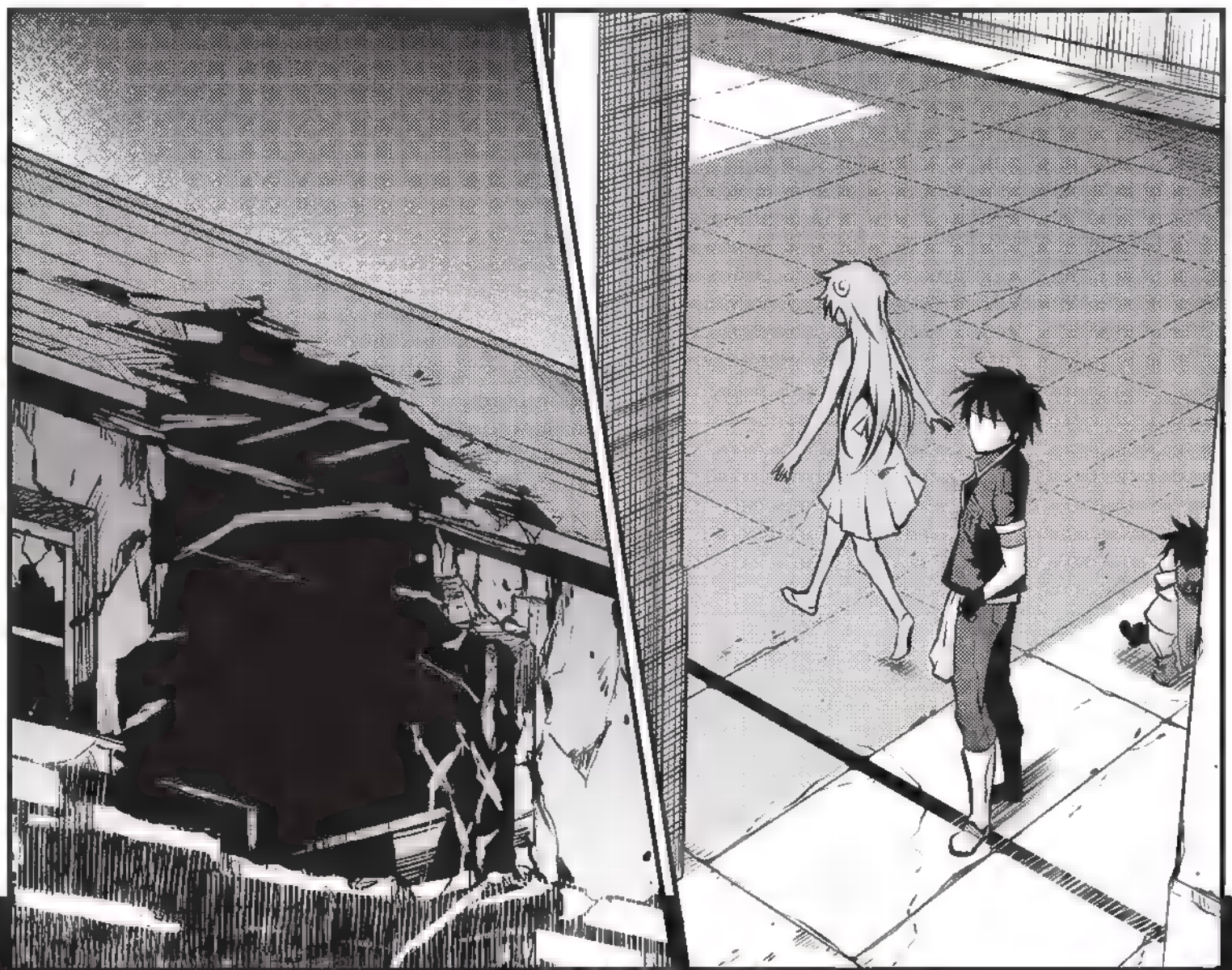
HAPPY? NOW QUIT PRYING.
I LIKED HER, SURE, BUT SHE WASN'T THE MARRYING TYPE. THAT'S PART OF WHAT I ADMIRED ABOUT HER.
IT WASN'T LIKE THAT. I REALLY LOOKED UP TO HER-- MORE THAN I DID WITH ANYONE.
HUNH.

YOUR FRIEND AZALIE CAST A SPELL...
AND WAS USING THE SWORD OF BALDANDERS? WHICH TRANSFORMED HER?
TMP
MAYBE. IT WOULD MAKE SENSE.
TMP

I THOUGHT CHILDMAN *SEALED AWAY* THE SWORD AZALIE USED.

BUT THERE'S STILL A PROBLEM WITH THAT THEORY.

TMP



HOW COULD IT HAVE ENDED UP IN SOMEONE'S HOUSE?

My guess is that it's enchanted to protect whoever wears it.
Look.
It's too small for my fingers.
Maybe it was made for the delicate and beautiful hands of a princess.
Um... But your hands are beautiful.

All right, Krylancelo. Ready for me to translate this ancient ring for you?
"Be disarmed, my foes."
That's how the runes are read.

Not a bad theory.

If that's the case, it might be a passive spell that's auto-triggered by danger.

To protect them from getting hit by a runaway carriage or something!

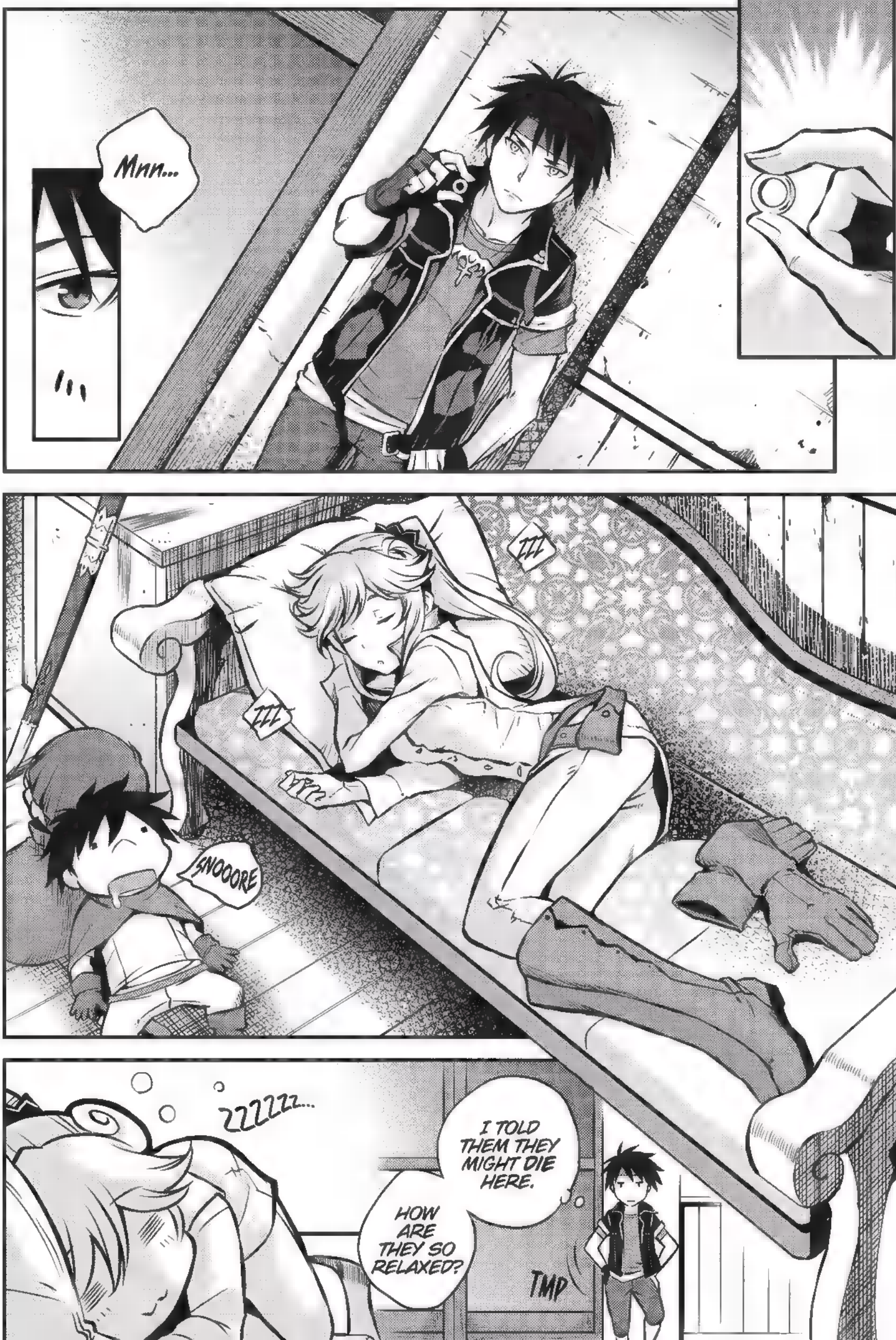
I-I think it might've been made for a kid, though?!

Aw. Sweet boy.

FLAIL

FLAIL

SHFF


Mnn...
SNOOORE
ZZZZZZ...
I TOLD THEM THEY MIGHT DIE HERE.
HOW ARE THEY SO RELAXED?
TMP

SINCE IT LOOKS LIKE HE TURNED YOU DOWN, I CAN STEP UP INSTEAD!

YOU WENT TO THE CONTINENTAL SORCERERS' ASSOCIATION TO ASK YOUR BUDDY FOR HELP WITH THAT, RIGHT?

AND IF YOU'RE GOING UP AGAINST TWO BAD GUYS, YOU'LL NEED BACK-UP.

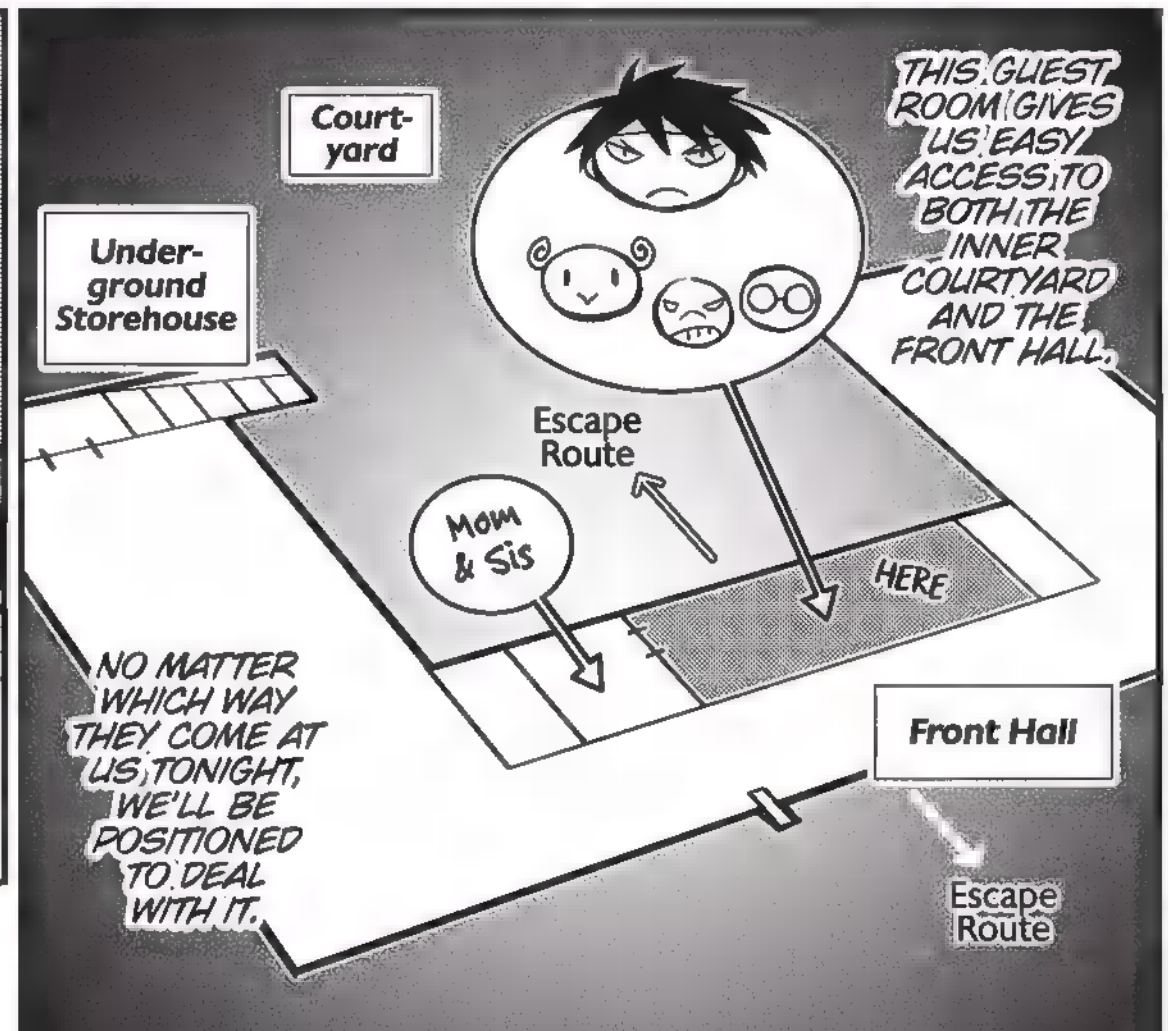
MOTHER SAID I SHOULD HELP YOU!

Gloves (Way too big.)

SABER (Found on the floor of the store-house.)

HRGH, AND HER SISTER SIGNED OFF ON IT, TOO! WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH THIS FAMILY?

DO THEY HAVE NO SENSE OF SELF-PRESERVATION?



I'M PREPARED TO PROTECT HER BY KILLING YOU!

AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, CHILDMAN...

CLENCH.

YOU SHOWED UP HERE RIGHT AFTER AZALIE DID.

WHY?

IF AZALIE CAME HERE LOOKING FOR THE SWORD THAT COULD GET HER OLD BODY BACK...

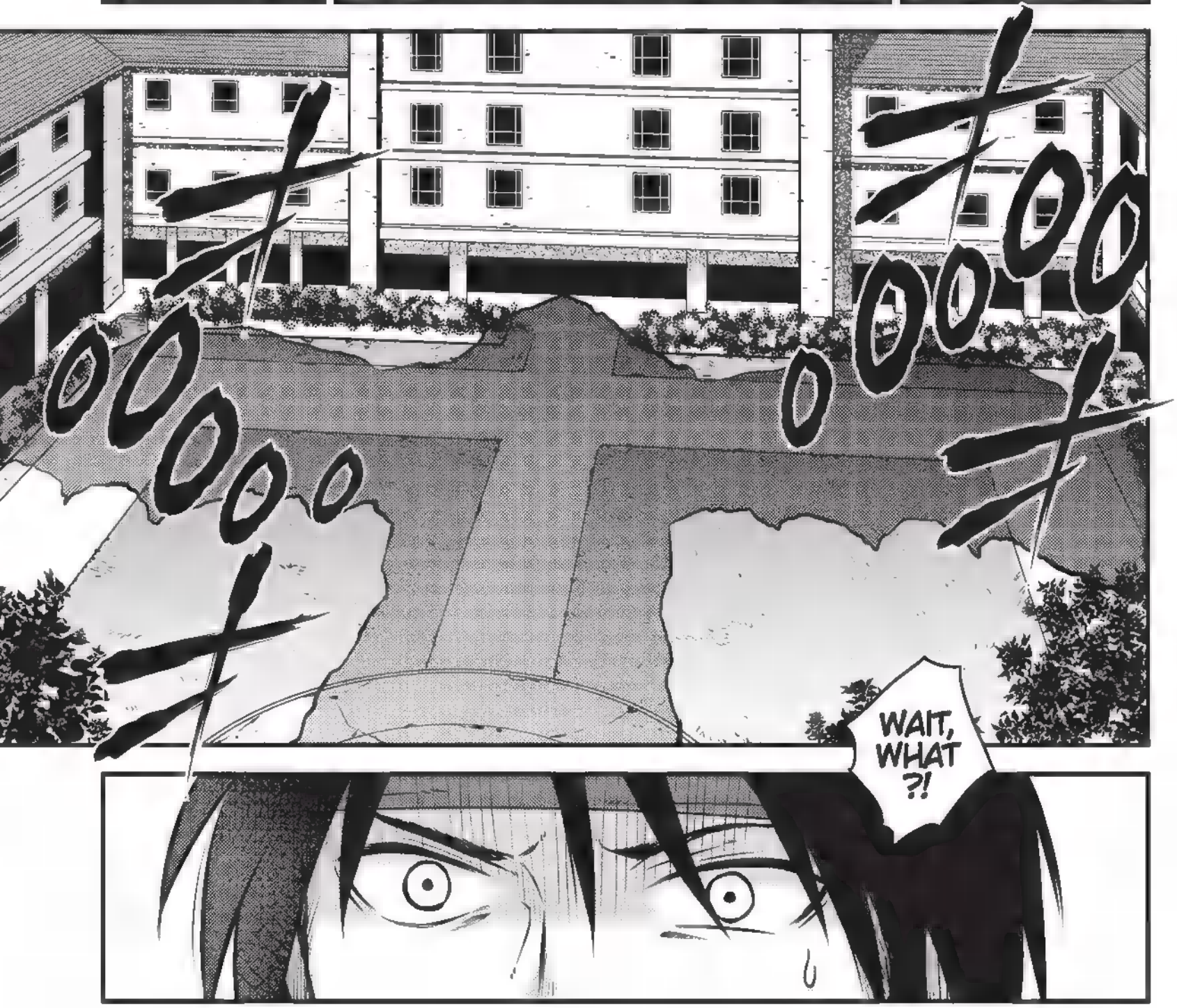
THEN DID YOU FOLLOW HER, HOPING TO DO THE SAME THING? I DOUBT THAT.

THE TOWER OF FANGS CONSIDERS AZALIE'S ACCIDENT A STAIN ON THEIR REPUTATION. YOU WOULDN'T TRY TO SAVE HER.

THEN... YOU MUST BE HERE TO KILL HER.

HERE THEY COME.
RATTLE
RATTLE

RATTLE
RATTLE


WAIT, WHAT ?!

AZALIE
?!

FINI

KRISH

NGH!

BOOM

MMPH! MRRGH!

WHAP

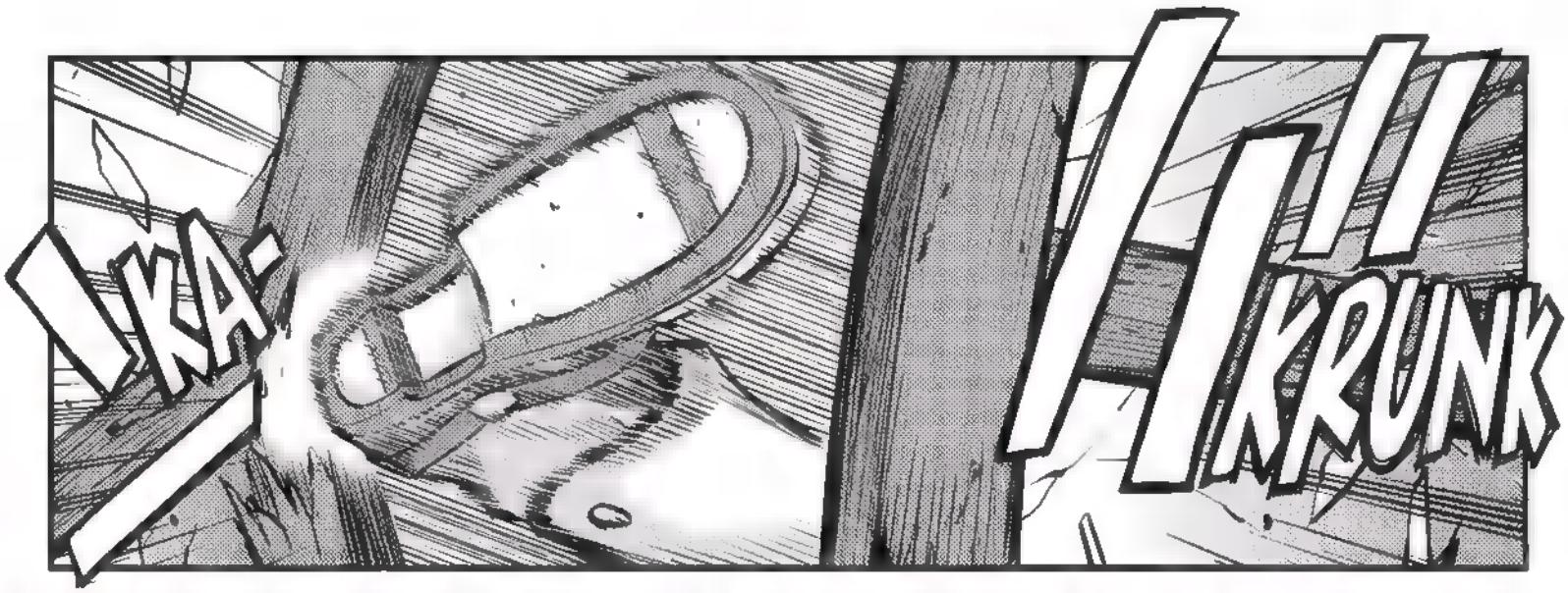
WHAP

OW...

MRFF!

ACK!

THMM THMM


KA-
KRUNK

AZALIE!
AZALIE, IT'S ME!
DON'T YOU RECOG-NIZE ME?!
CRUNCH

SHE'S CASTING A SPELL ?!
THOSE SIGILS ...

Halo Armor!

FOOM

YAAAAAH!

FWO OAAR

THMM

THMM

TH-THAT DRAGON CREATURE IS BACK ?!

I THOUGHT WE WERE GONNA FIGHT THE ASSASSIN-BURGLARS!

OH, THEY'RE DEFINITELY COMING. THIS PARTY JUST GOT BIG!

YOU THREE-- RUN!

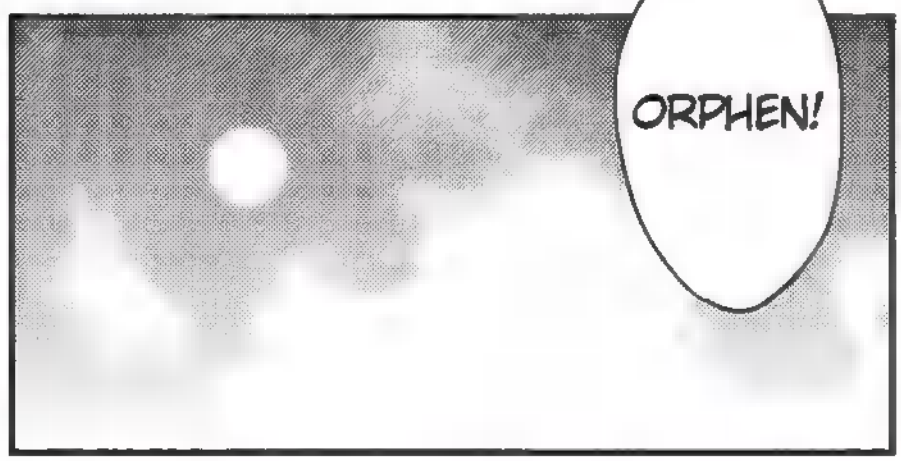
ALL THESE FLAMES... I CAN'T GET CLOSE!

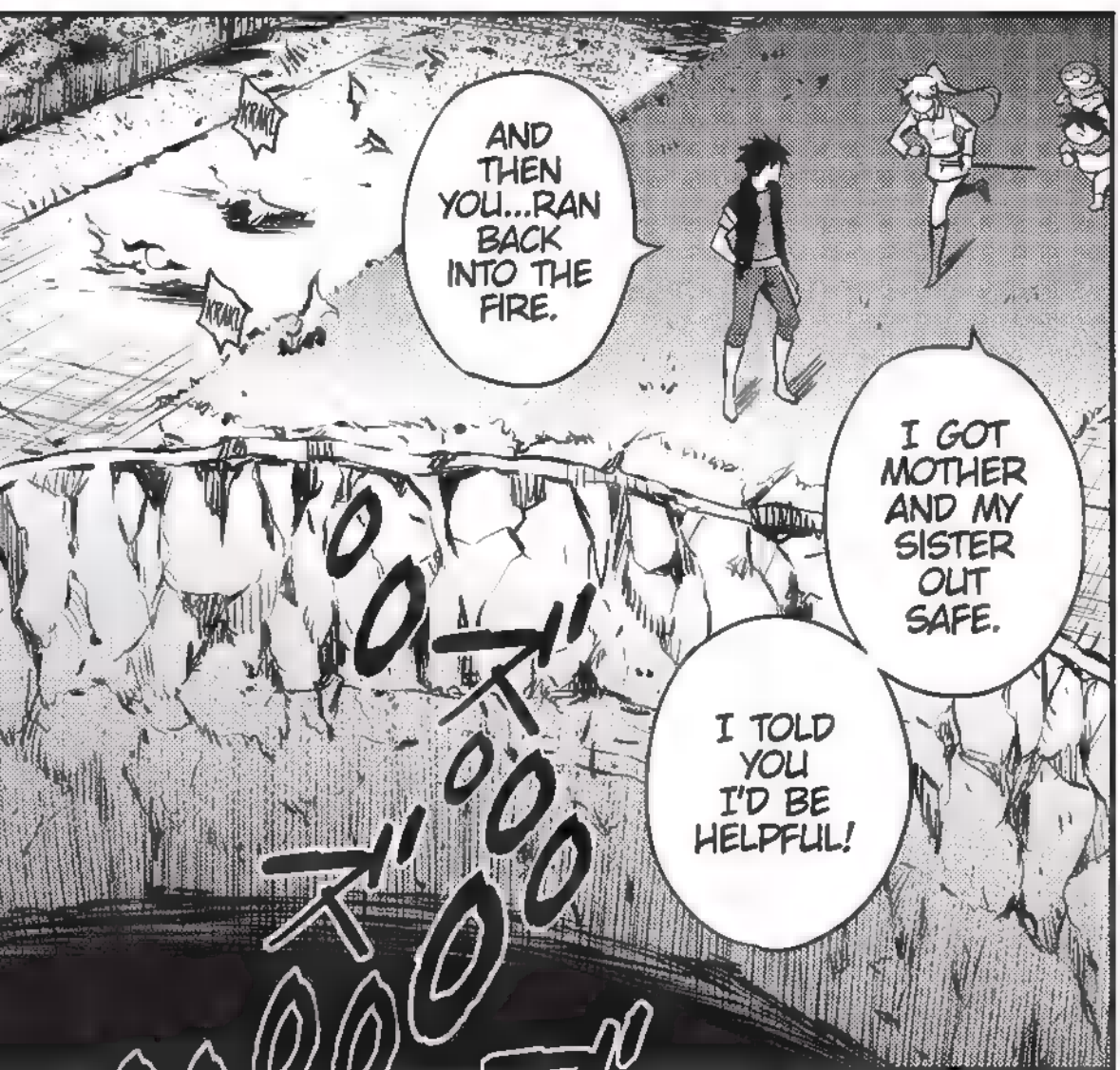
NGK!

WUN

CH

THE HELL ?!
Embrace my surround-ings...
Dancing Bronco!
FOOSH


ORPHEN!


AND THEN YOU...RAN BACK INTO THE FIRE.
I GOT MOTHER AND MY SISTER OUT SAFE.
I TOLD YOU I'D BE HELPFUL!

DID THE BEAST FALL DOWN THERE?
SHE'S PROBABLY RANSACK-ING THE STORE-HOUSE.
YEAH. DON'T GET TOO CLOSE.

FWO
AAAAAAR

MISTER ORPHEN!

WHY THE FACE, DORTIN?

LETTERING INSIDE A BLUE GLOW...?

HUH?

DID AZALIE CAST IT?!

A SPELL ...!

HOLY... SHE CAN SUMMON A CYCLONE THIS HUGE?!
AAAAAAH!

NYAAA AAAH!

SHE'S GONNA KILL THOSE IDIOTS!

KEH!

Thou feelest my embrace, Lost Children!

WAGH!!

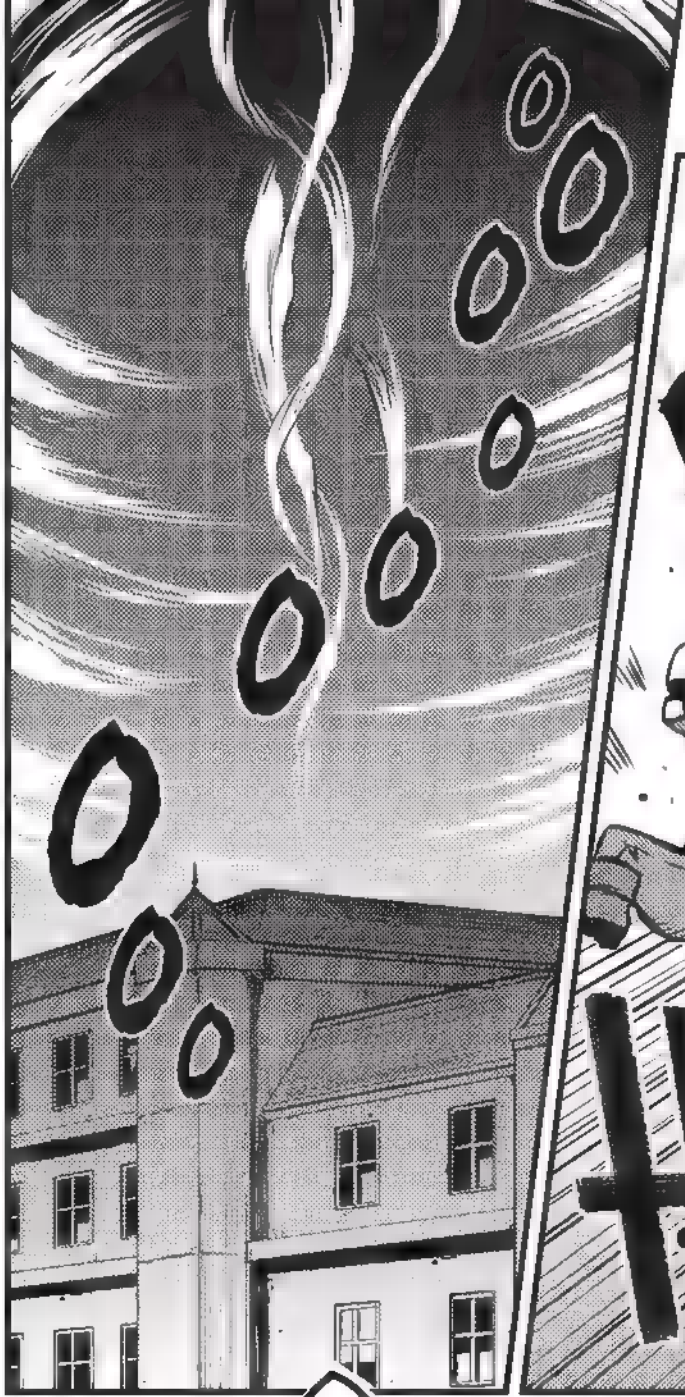
POP

WHOA!

POP

WAAAAAAAAH!

ZOOM



UFF
FW
GURF!
THUD
THUNK

UM...
TH-
THANK...
YOU.
WOW.

THE HELL...?

I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING JUST SUCKED ALL THE ENERGY OUT OF ME...

SLUMP

ORPHEN ?!

NN...

WHOA, CHECK IT OUT!

HURRY AND GET OUT OF HERE. THE NEXT ATTACK--

JUST...USED TOO MANY BIG SPELLS TOO FAST. HARD TO CONCEN-TRATE.

N-NOTHING. I'M FINE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER ?!

OR DID THAT THING GET BIGGER ?!
IS IT ME...
OH, CRAP. I KNOW WHAT JUST HAPPENED.

WHAT'S GOING ON, SORCER-ER?!
GRUK
SHE SIPHONED MANA OFF MY SPELL AND ABSORBED IT FOR HERSELF!
GRAK
WHA ?!
DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, AND FAST-- BEFORE I JAB YOU TO DEATH WITH A PROTRAC-TOR!

G-GET DOWN!

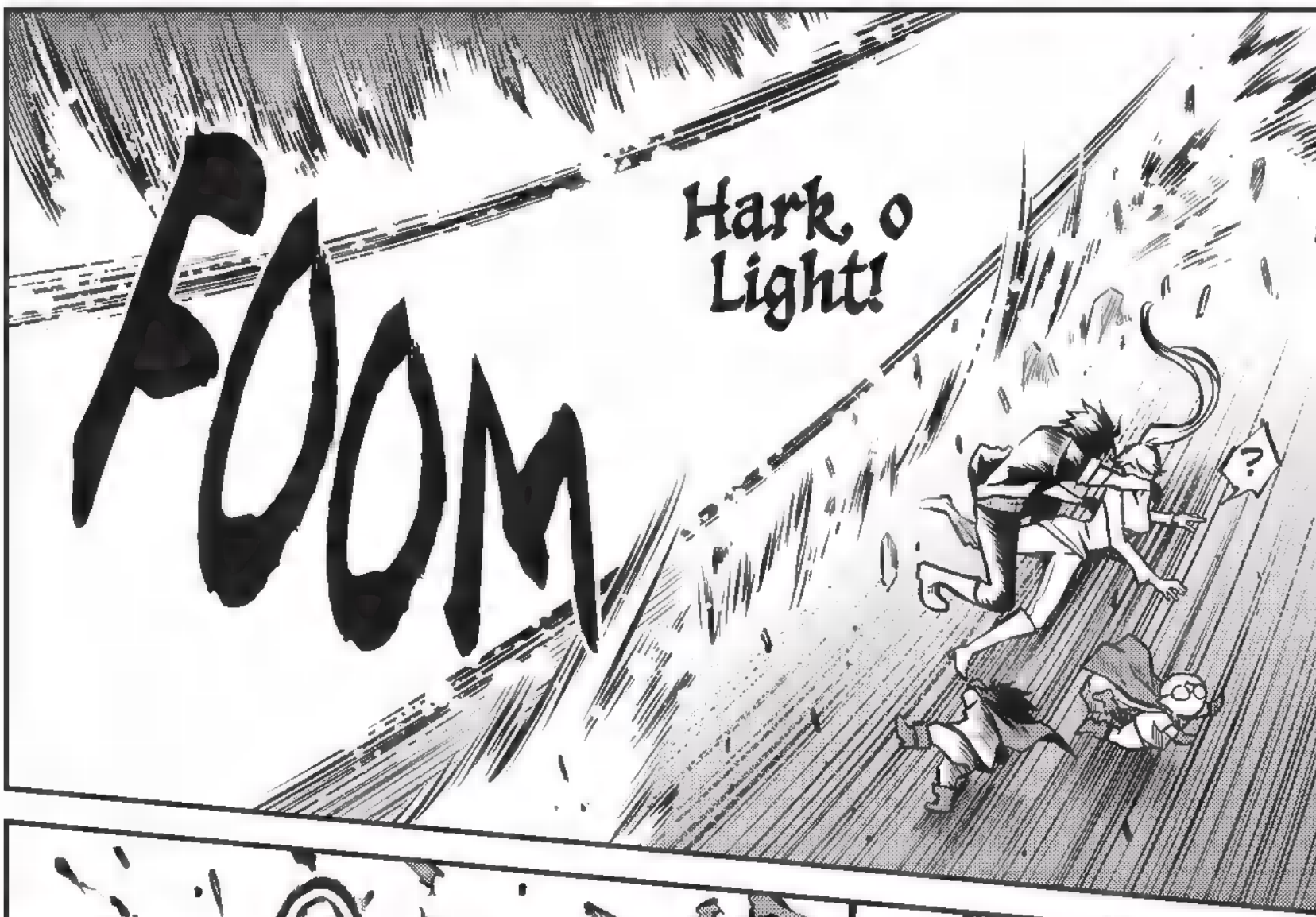
SHADDAP! WHEN YOU'RE A PRO, THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS RESULTS!

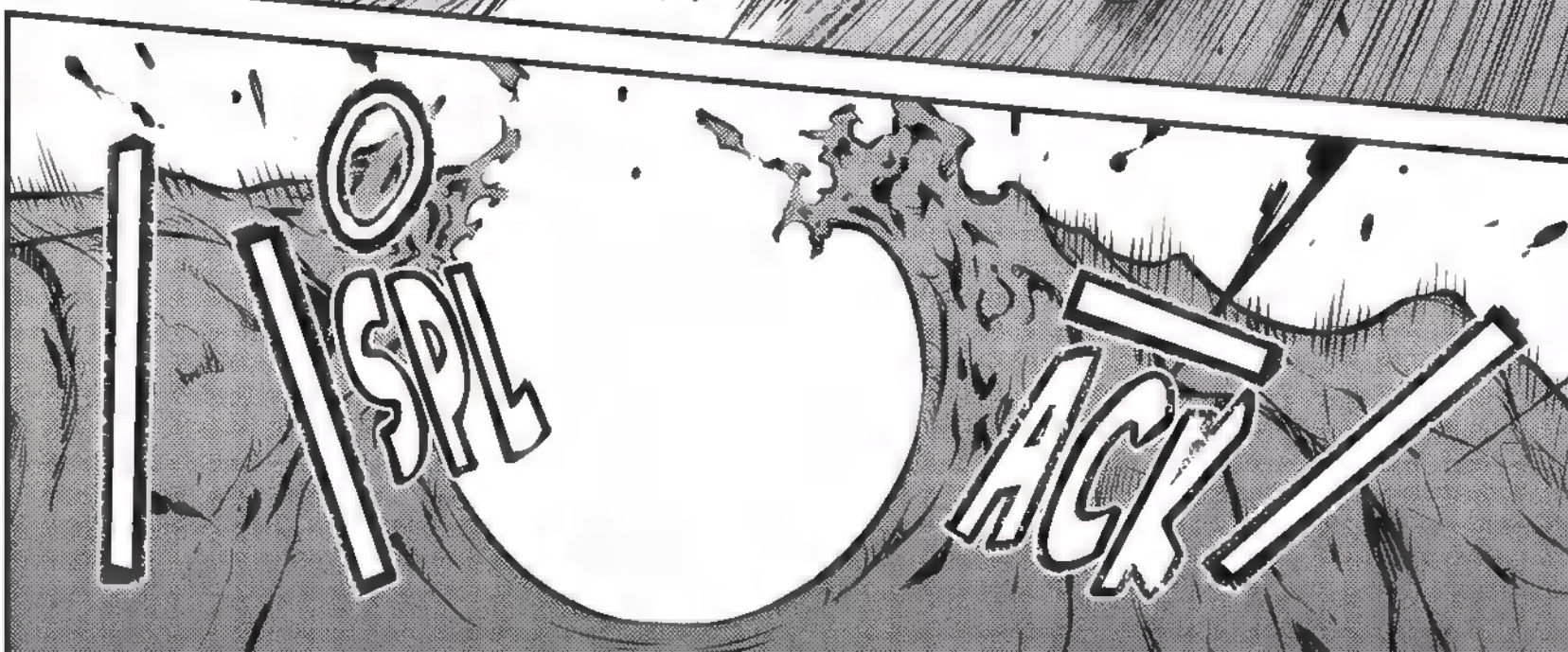
PIIINCH

EX-CUSE ME?!

ORPHEN CAST THAT SPELL TO SAVE OUR LIVES, YOU UNGRATEFUL TWERP!

APH! APH! APH!





THAT SPELL...
D- DON'T STRADDLE ME! EEK! AND YOU'RE HEAVY-- GET OFF!
BOP
BOP
RAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAR
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
GLINT
HNNNN!

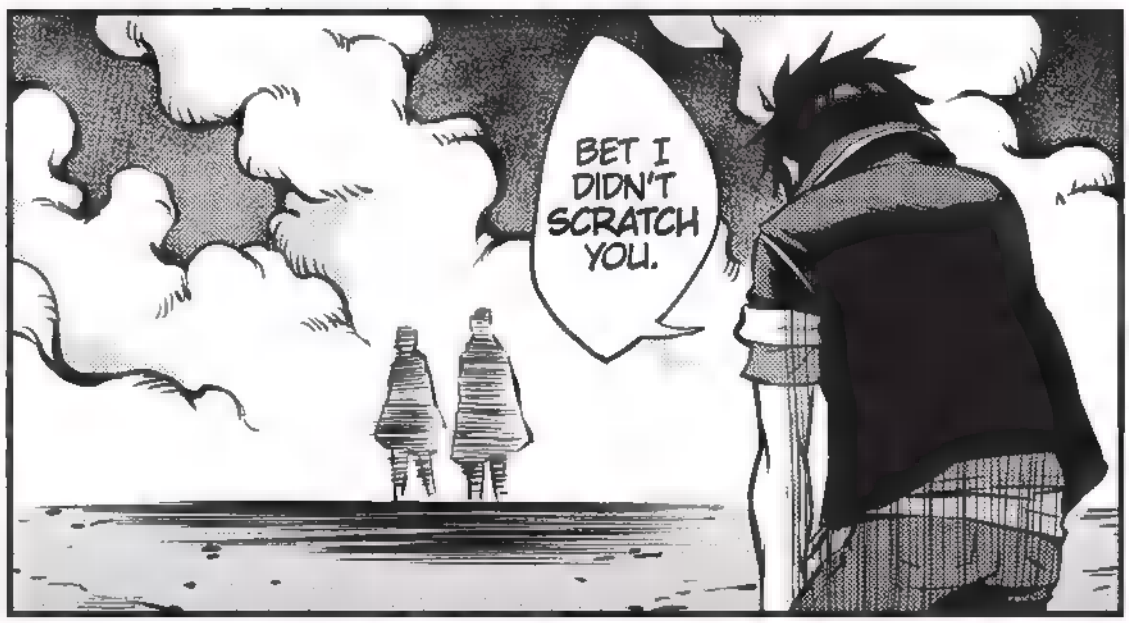
Hark, o Light!
CHILD-MAN.

Hark, o Light!
Hark, o Light!
FOOM
RELEASE THEE!

HUFF!
HUFF!

SWORD OF LIGHT!!

CLOP


BET I DIDN'T SCRATCH YOU.

CHOOM

NEI-THER WOULD YOU...
YOU'D NEVER GO DOWN THAT EASY.

DID I THROW HIM OFF THE ROOF? NO...

LOOKED LIKE THIS.

That's Shrimp-Man?!

GOOONG

"SHRIMP-MAN."

YOU KNEW...?

AND IT'S "BLACK TIGER," JEEZ.

IT'S OKAY. I COULD TELL YOUR HEART WASN'T IN IT.

KRY-LANCELO... I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS AFTERNOON. ALL OF IT.

AND I KNEW YOU'D TAKE THEIR SIDE.

FINE.

NOW IT'S ALL OUT IN THE OPEN— NO MORE NEED TO TALK.

BITE ME.
KRYLANCELO, THIS IS THE OFFICIAL DECISION OF THE DAMSELS' ORISONS.
MASTER, WAIT!
GRIP
FWISH
HUFF!
WHAT, MURDERING AZALIE?
IF THAT'S YOUR PLAN, YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL ME FIRST.
HUFF!
HUFF!
AND I'M NOT GOING DOWN QUIETLY.
GRAB
HA?
MOVE.
BW
YOU'RE TOO EXHAUSTED TO INTERFERE NOW.

Fly free-eee!!!
WHOOSH
AAAAAAAAH!
BLISH

KEEEEEEEEEEEE
WHAAAAAA?!
WHAT KINDA SPELL IS THIS?!
HUH?! WHAT--
I release thee--
GLOMP

WHOOSH
Halo--
BWSH!!
I spin thee thus!
FOOOOH

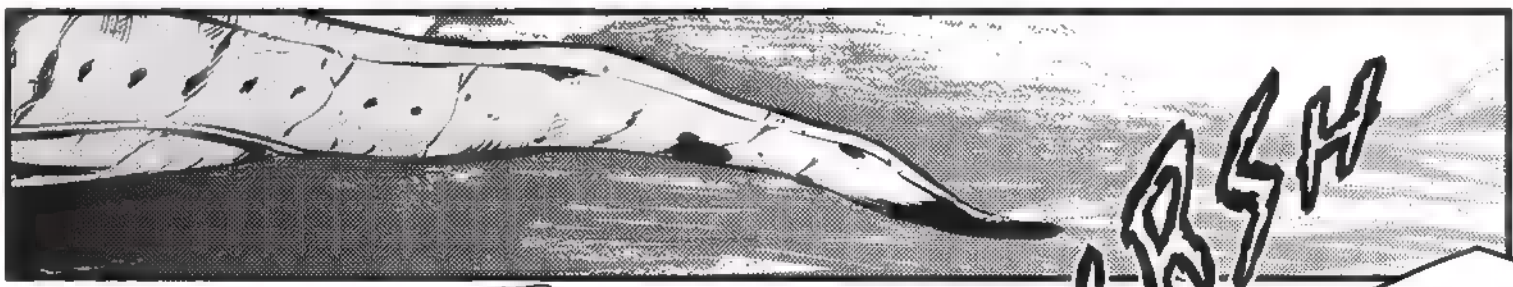
CHAPTER 6: NIGHT HUNT ①
Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN

GYAAAAAAA!!

THE SWORD OF BALDAN-DERS!
CRACK
CRACK
KISH
FOOSH
WHAM
SPLATCH

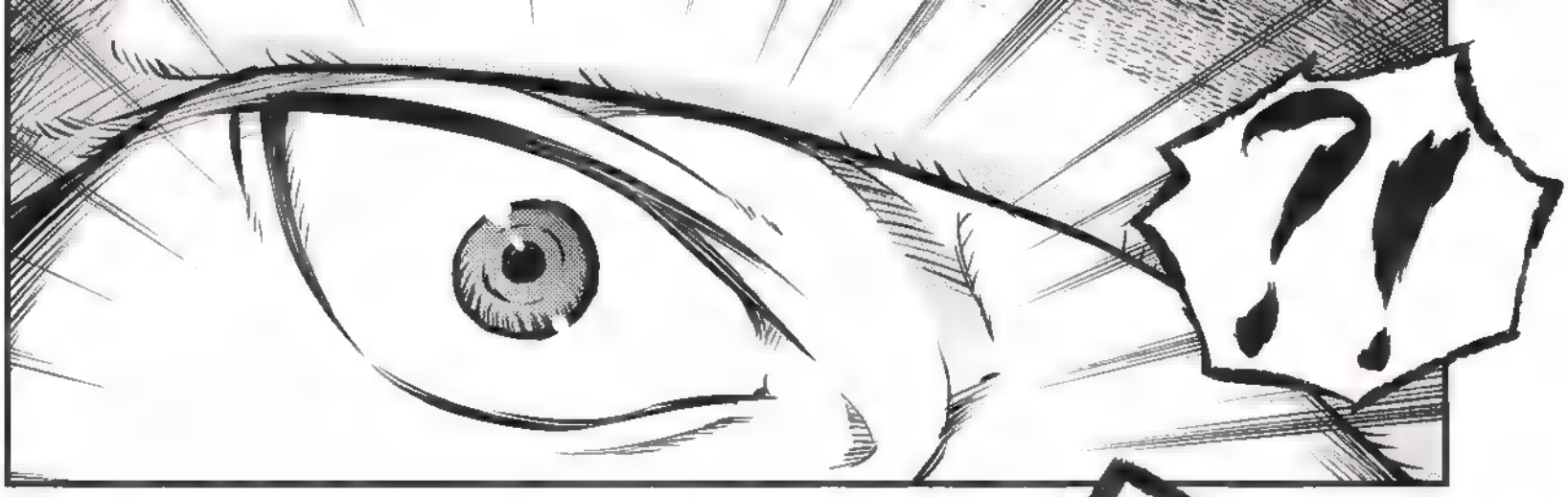
NO NEED.

NO...
MASTER! SHOULD WE FOLLOW ?!



SKRSH
AZALIE! WAIT!
FA-
FLAP

D-
DON'T
LEAVE!
PLEASE!



Oh!
HE'S AWAKE.
AZALIE !!
FWUMP

YEAH-- LISTEN TO THE WOMAN! MY SISTER'S BEEN TAKING CARE OF YOU THIS WHOLE TIME YOU WERE OUT.

SHFF

YOU MUSTN'T GET UP YET, MISTER ORPHEN.

I'VE BEEN OUT? NNGH.

THROB

NGH!

THIS WAS THE LEAST I COULD DO.

BLUSH

YOU DID RESCUE ME, AFTER ALL...

WELL... THANK YOU, MARIA-BELLE.

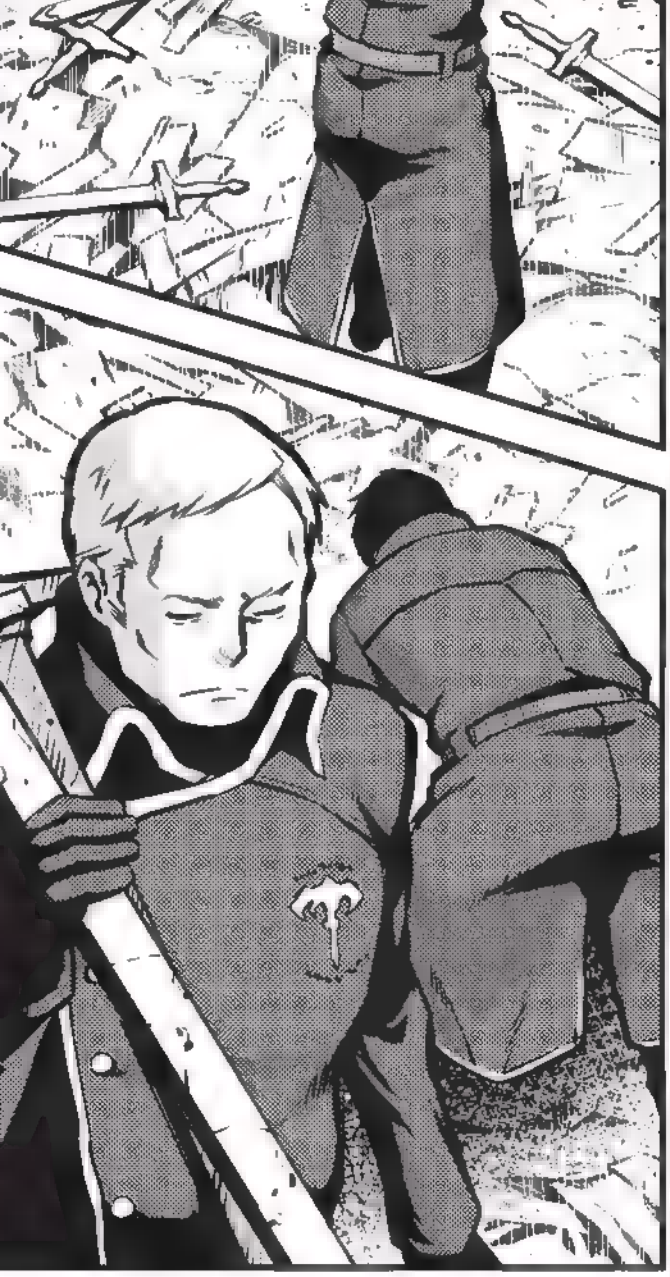
YOU'RE VERY, ERM, WELCOME!

BLUSH

THE SUN'S ALL THE WAY UP. GUESS I WAS UNDER FOR A WHILE.

WHAT HAPPEN-ED?

UM...
A LOT, ACTUALLY.



MORE SORCERERS FROM THE DAMSELS' ORISONS TO CRAWL UP MY ASS.
TERRIFIC.
Psh!

ORPHEN ...
YEAH, I'M FINE. SORRY IF I SCARED YOU.
ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE UP?
HEH... IT'S OKAY.
THEY'VE BEEN CARTING OUT SWORDS FROM OUR STOREHOUSE SINCE THIS MORNING.
BUT I DON'T THINK THEY'VE FOUND WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR.
WHAT ABOUT CHILD-MAN?
OH...

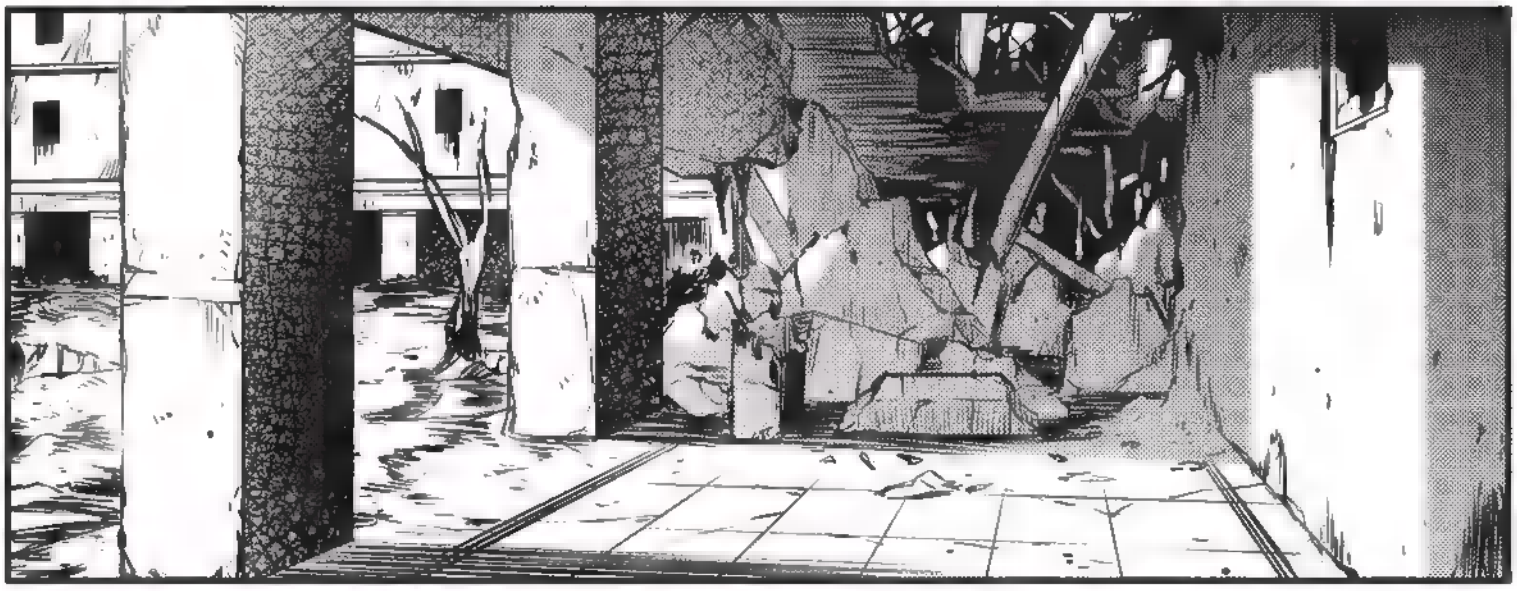
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

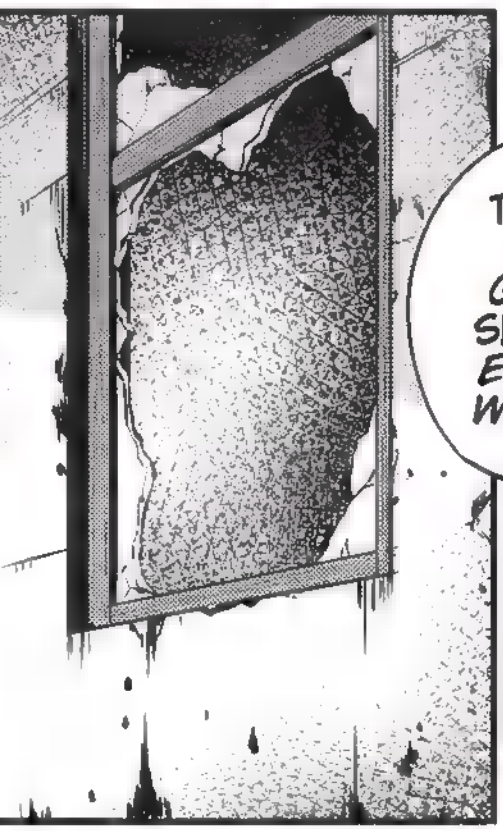
HE GAVE ORDERS TO THE PEOPLE HERE, THEN TOOK SHRIMPY AND LEFT.

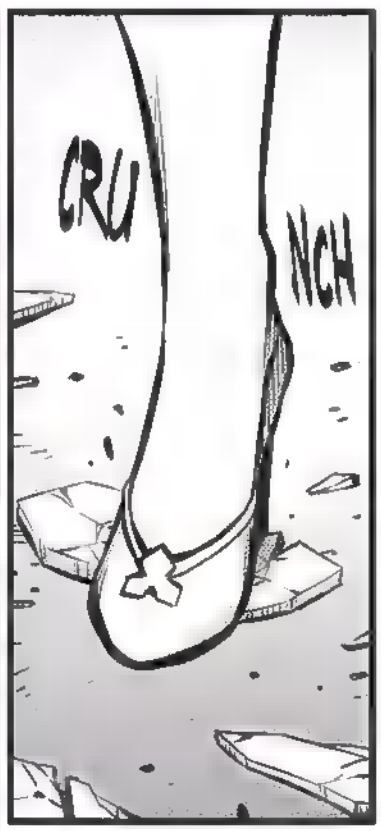
THAT OLD GUY WITH THE *SUUUPER* SCARY FACE?

HA HA...

HE FREAKS ME OUT!







I repair thee...

FWIF

HUFF.

...

CLENCH

Scars of the Sunset!

KRIK

IT'S PIECING TOGETHER!

THE GLASS.

KRIK

KRIK

THAT'S HOW IT WORKS?

PRETTY MUCH.

PUNT

LOOK AT ME.

IN SORCERY, USING YOUR VOICE IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF CASTING SPELLS.

BUT EVEN WORDLESS SHOUTS CAN DO THE TRICK.

WAVE

WAVE

WOW, WHAT WAS THAT?! WHAT DID THOSE WORDS MEAN?

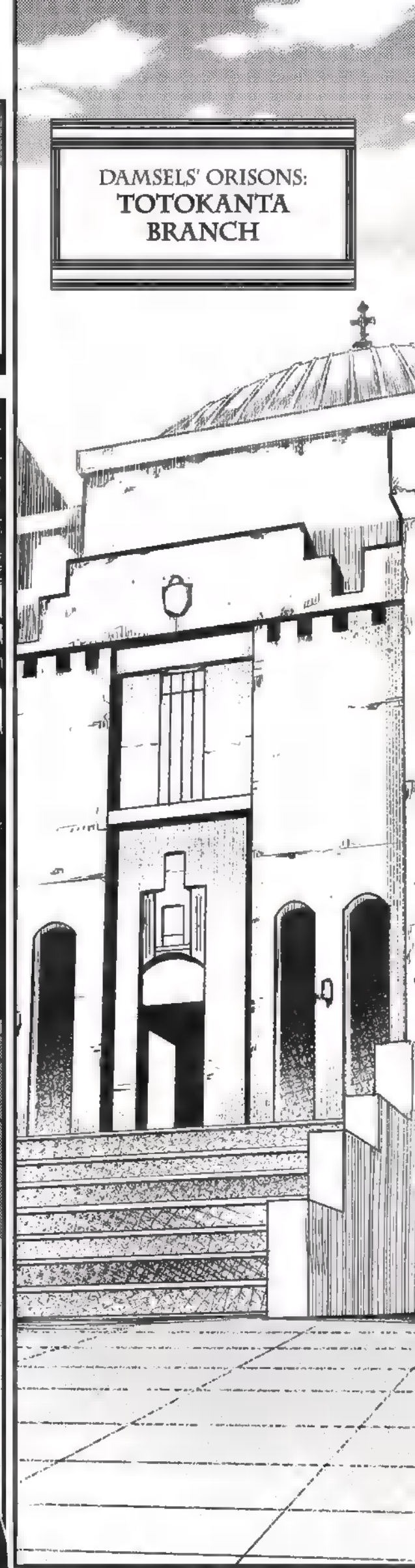
MEH. THEY'RE KINDA RANDOM.

FULL OF EMPTY WORDS AND HOT AIR. POSTURING, LIKE I CAN HANDLE THIS.

BUT EVERYTHING I'VE TRIED... HAS FAILED.

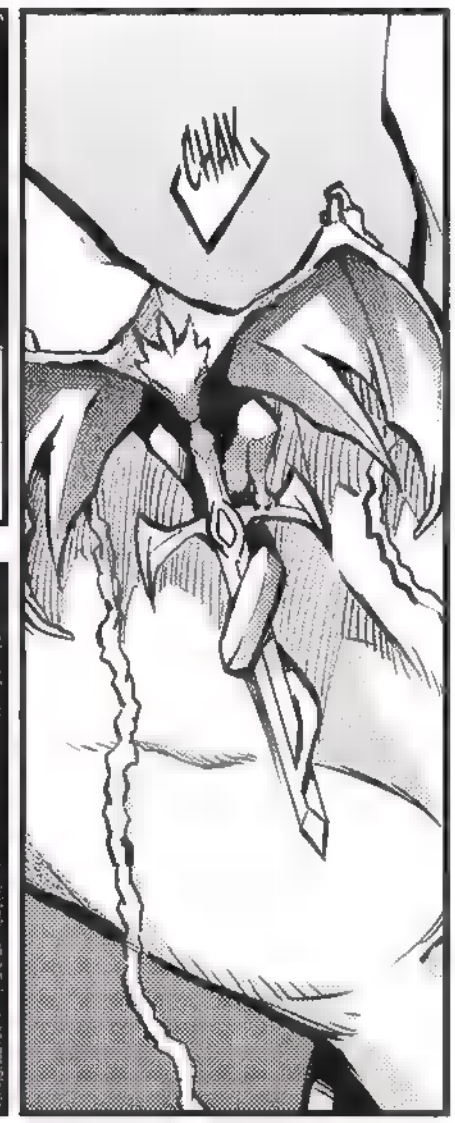
I KNEW YOU'D COME HERE...

KRYLAN-CELO.


DAMSELS' ORISONS:
TOTOKANTA BRANCH

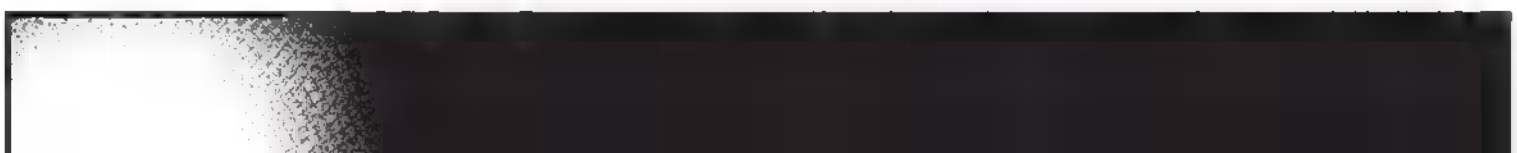
?
PWISH
ZWISH

YOU FORGOT THAT, HEARTIA.

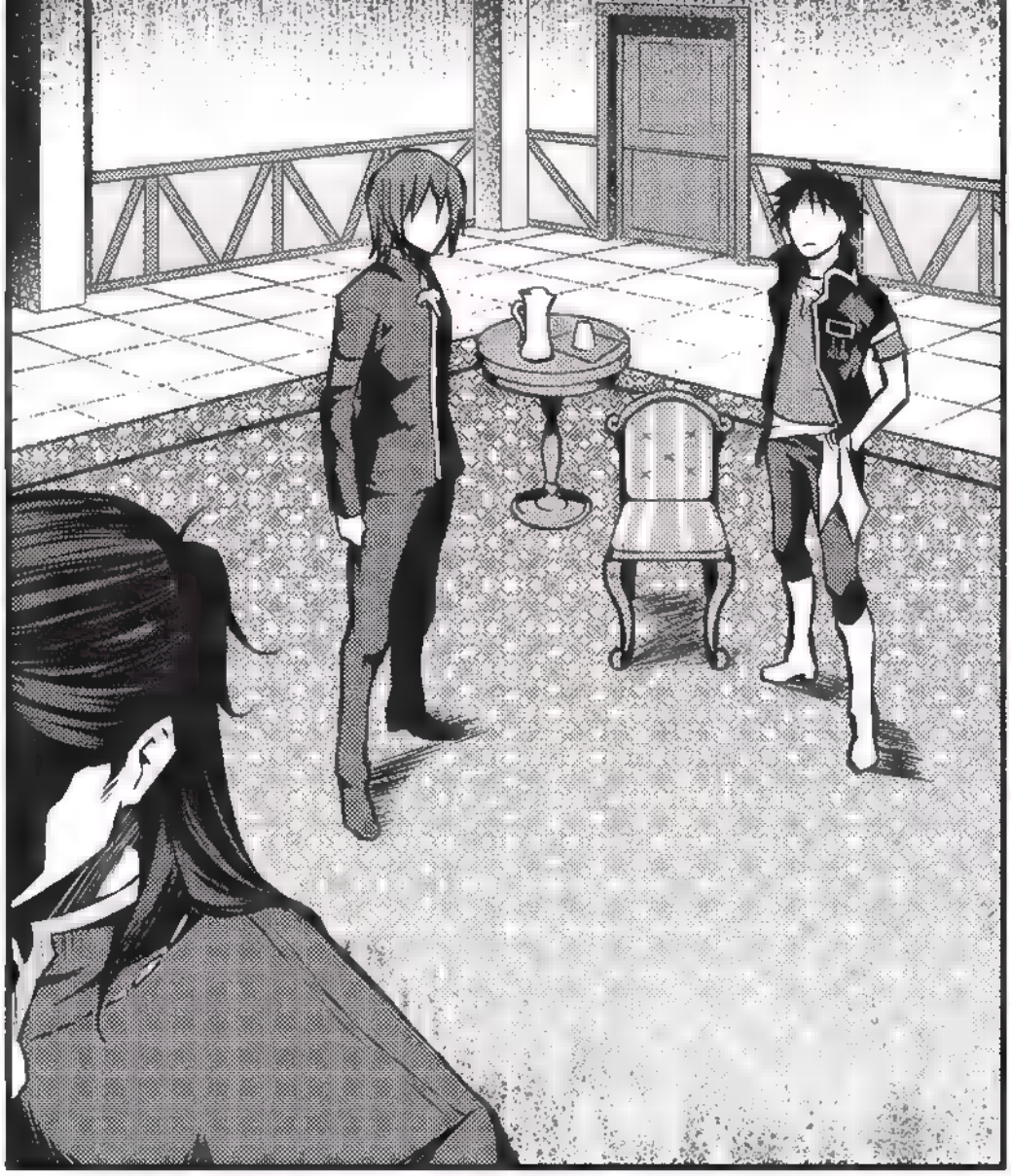

CHAK

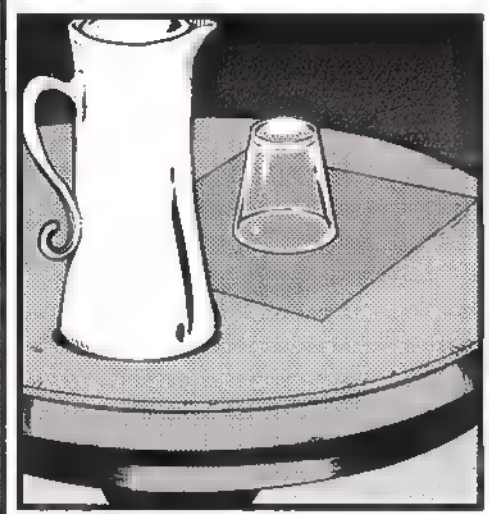
IT *DID* FEEL LIKE I WAS MISSING SOME-THING.

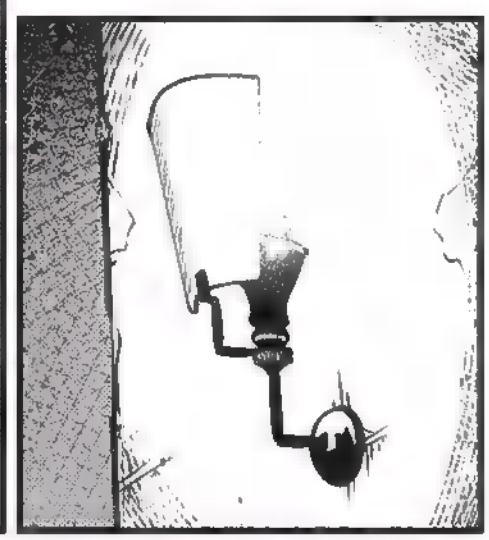
I'LL TAKE YOU TO HIM.



THE PROFESSOR IS WAITING.







FOR FIVE YEARS NOW...
MY MEN AND I HAVE BEEN HUNTING THAT... THING.
DO YOU KNOW WHY?

FIVE YEARS.

BECAUSE YOU WANT TO KILL HER.

HUNTING HER.

IS A MON-STER.

WHAT I HUNT...

SHE DIED FIVE YEARS AGO.

CRUNCH

THW

AMA

NONE OF HER CONSCIOUS-NESS CAN BE LEFT IN THERE.

IT'S JUST A CREATURE ACTING ON INSTINCT AND A FEW WISPS OF HER OLD MEMORIES.

HOW CAN YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT, KRYLANCELO? YOU SAW THAT BEAST.

CLENCH

GRIT

THAT'S AZALIE-- NOT A MON-STER!

WHAP

INSTINCT AND... MEMORY?

YES. FAINT MEMORIES OF THE SWORD OF BALDAND-ERS...

AND AN INSTINCTUAL FERVOR TO RETURN TO HUMAN FORM.

HENCE THE MONSTER'S DESPERATE SEARCH FOR THE SWORD.

WHY?
I THOUGHT YOU SEALED THAT SWORD. WHY WAS IT ROTTING IN A RICH FAMILY'S BASEMENT?
THAT WAS PRECISELY WHERE I SEALED IT.

MANY YEARS AGO...
I WAS HIRED BY THE HEAD OF THAT HOUSEHOLD, THE LATE EKINTRA EVERLASTING, AS A PERSONAL ASSASSIN. I CONSIDERED HIM A FRIEND.
I LATER ASKED HIM TO STORE A SWORD I HAD DEEMED TOO DANGEROUS TO STAY IN THE TOWER... SOME ARTIFACTS THAT WOULD BE *TREMENDOUSLY* DANGEROUS IN THE HANDS OF A SORCERER ARE HARMLESS IN THE HANDS OF A COMMON MAN.
I...GET IT NOW. THE SWORD. AZALIE'S BELONGINGS.
YOU HANDED HIM EVERYTHING *INCONVENIENT*, TO LOSE IN THAT PIT OF A STOREHOUSE!
Damsel's Totokanta
DUE TO AZALIE'S FAILURE ...
THE TOWER DECLARED THE SWORD OF BALDANDERS A FORBIDDEN ARTIFACT.
OF COURSE IT WAS REMOVED.
AND YOU WENT ALONG WITH IT?

I SWORE ABSOLUTE LOYALTY TO THE TOWER.

SHE WAS A TRAITOR WHO TURNED HER BACK ON THEM... AND PERISHED.

AZALIE WAS YOUR STUDENT!

YOU RAISED HER LIKE A FATHER!

KRYLAN-CELO, CALM DOWN!

JOLT

WISH

SHE'S NOT DEAD!

IT SEEMS THAT, ON THIS MATTER ...
OUR OPINIONS SHALL NEVER INTERSECT.
ONE LOOK AND HE NAILED MY FEET TO THE FLOOR.
RRGH.
HOW CAN HE DO THAT? HOW DOES HE HAVE THAT KIND OF POWER?
AM I TOO WEAK TO KEEP UP...?
SKITCH

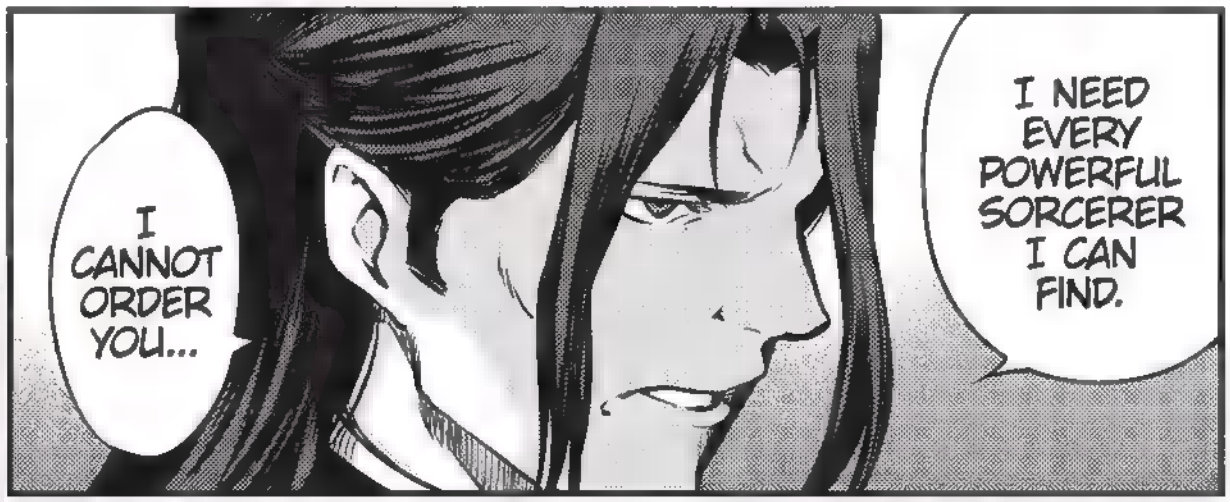
WHITE SORCERY!
TO SAY NOTHING OF THE STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE OF ITS MONSTROUS FORM.
IT HAS KILLED EVERY ONE OF MY SUBORDINATES WHO TOOK UP THE HUNT, LEAVING ONLY ME.
THAT BEAST RETAINS THE *LATE* AZALIE'S SKILL WITH MAGIC.
AND ALTHOUGH I POSSESS SUPERIOR SORCERY TO THAT CREATURE...
IT STILL RETAINS A TRUMP CARD THAT EVEN I CAN'T OUT-MANEUVER.

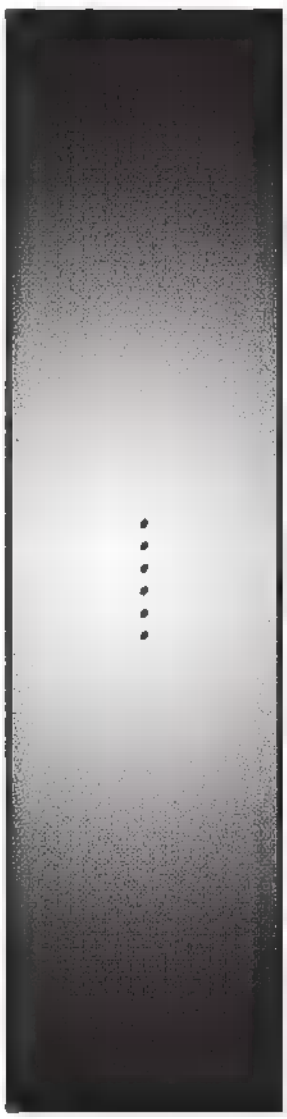
LEAVING ME HELPLESS BEFORE IT.

THE MONSTER HAS THE *LATE* AZALIE'S SKILL OF THAT ART...

EVEN ITS SIMPLE SPELLS ARE EXTREMELY POWERFUL WHEN USED WITH WIT.

WHITE SORCERY MANIPULATES THE BODY, THE SOUL, AND TIME.





WHIR!

KRYLANCELO!

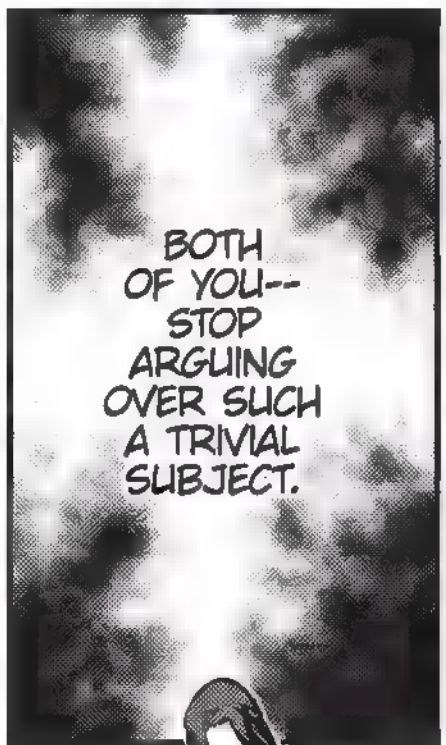
ONE OF THE TOWER'S GREATEST STUDENTS WENT MAD, STOLE AN ARTIFACT, AND ESCAPED!

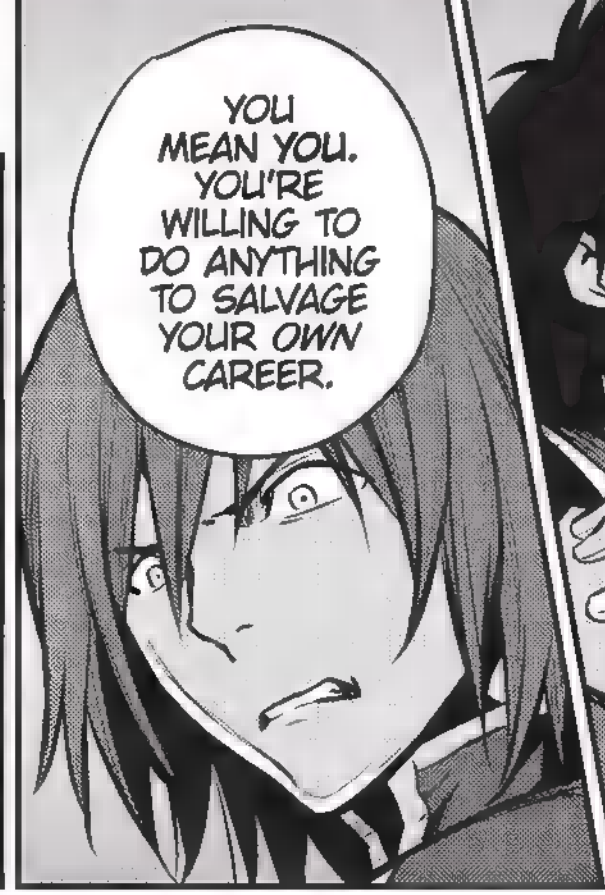
IF WORD OF THAT GOT OUT, THE TOWER'S CREDIBILITY WOULD BE DESTROYED!

GO TO HELL!

STUDENTS FROM THE ENTIRE CONTINENT COME TO THE TOWER OF FANGS *PREPARED TO FACE DEATH* TO MASTER SORCERY. THEY RISK EVERYTHING TO CHASE THAT CAREER--TO BECOME A RESPECTABLE SORCERER.

IF THE SCHOOL'S REPUTATION IS DESTROYED, WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM? DID THEY SACRIFICE ALL THAT FOR *NOTHING*?!


BOTH OF YOU-- STOP ARGUING OVER SUCH A TRIVIAL SUBJECT.

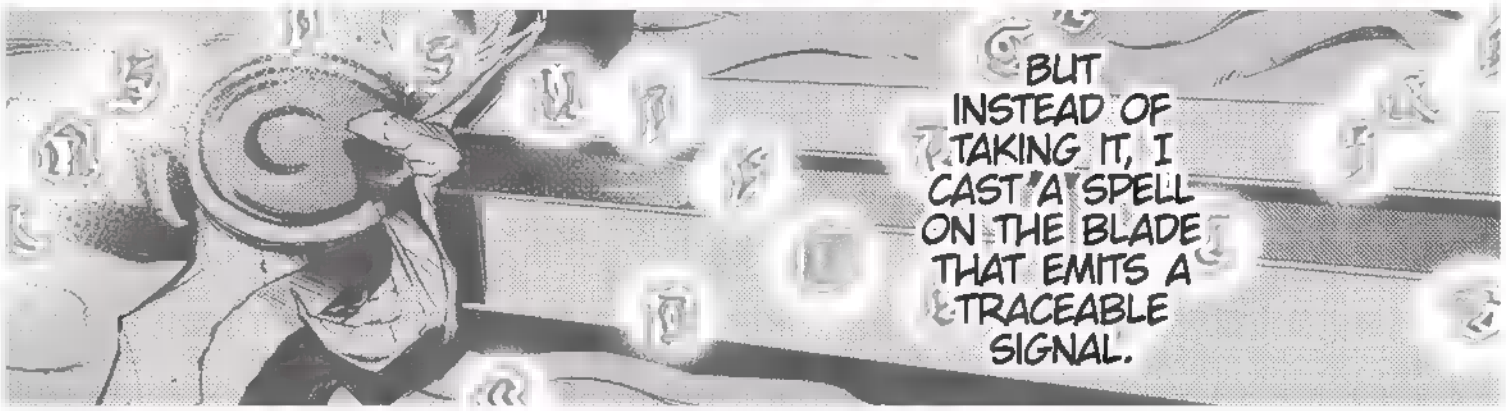

YOU MEAN YOU. YOU'RE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO SALVAGE YOUR OWN CAREER.

"THEY"?
SHWF

AT THIS STAGE, OUR PLAN IS SIMPLE.
I SAW TO IT THAT THE SWORD WAS MADE TRACKABLE.
?

TONIGHT, I SHALL ASSEMBLE A SQUAD OF ELITES ...
AND BEGIN A FINAL HUNT FOR THE BEAST.

WHILE YOU WERE OUT, I INFILTRATED THE STORE-HOUSE AND FOUND THE SWORD.



HE'S ONE STEP AHEAD OF ME EVERY DAMN TIME.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS.
WILL YOU JOIN ME...
OR WILL YOU NOT?
WHEN DO WE LEAVE...?
TO-NIGHT ?!

CAN I TAKE A BATH FIRST?

BUSTLE

BETTER PUT MY HAIR UP!

I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO PAAACK!

AND I'LL NEED THAT...

I'LL NEED THIS...

THAT'S SO SOON!

BUSTLE

CALM DOWN. YOU'RE NOT COMING.

RATTLE

LEAVE THIS ONE TO THE PROS, MISSY.

TSK TSK TSK!

BOO-OOO!!

YOU'RE USELESS AND ALSO STAYING HERE, LOUSE.

I'M GONNA BORROW SOME GEAR, PLEASE AND THANKS.

IT'S WAY TOO DANGER-OUS FOR YOU TO GO ALONE!

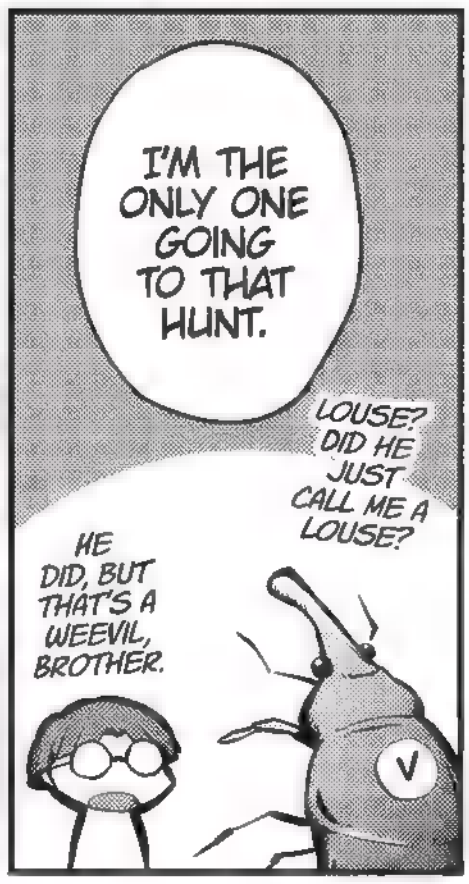
SCHAK

POING

FWUFF

THUNK

I WON'T BE ALONE--I'LL BE WITH A SQUAD OF TOWER SORCER-ERS.



DUN

AZALIE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE.

HOIST

BUT BEFORE THEY CAN KILL HER, I'LL CONVINCE HER TO RUN AWAY--WITH ME.

ORPHEN, WAIT!

SORRY. I WANTED TO FIX YOUR COURT-YARD...
TMP
I WON'T LET THEM KILL HER.
BUT I'M OUT OF TIME.
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.

I'LL PROTECT AZALIE IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!

Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN

CHARACTER DESIGNS ③: VOLKAN & DORTIN

CHAPTER 7: NIGHT HUNT ②

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

HOW CAN YOU DOUBT INTEL FROM THE GENIUS VOLKAN?!

I DON'T SEE ANY SIGN OF THEM.

ARE YOU *SURE* THEY CAME THIS WAY?

SHUT UP AND KEEP WALKING!

OR I'LL CRAM YOU IN A PENCIL SHARPENER AND SHARPEN YOU TO DEATH!

BUT YOU'RE DRAGGING US RANDOMLY THROUGH THE WOODS!

I ONLY CAME ALONG BECAUSE YOU SAID WE COULD HELP ORPHEN!

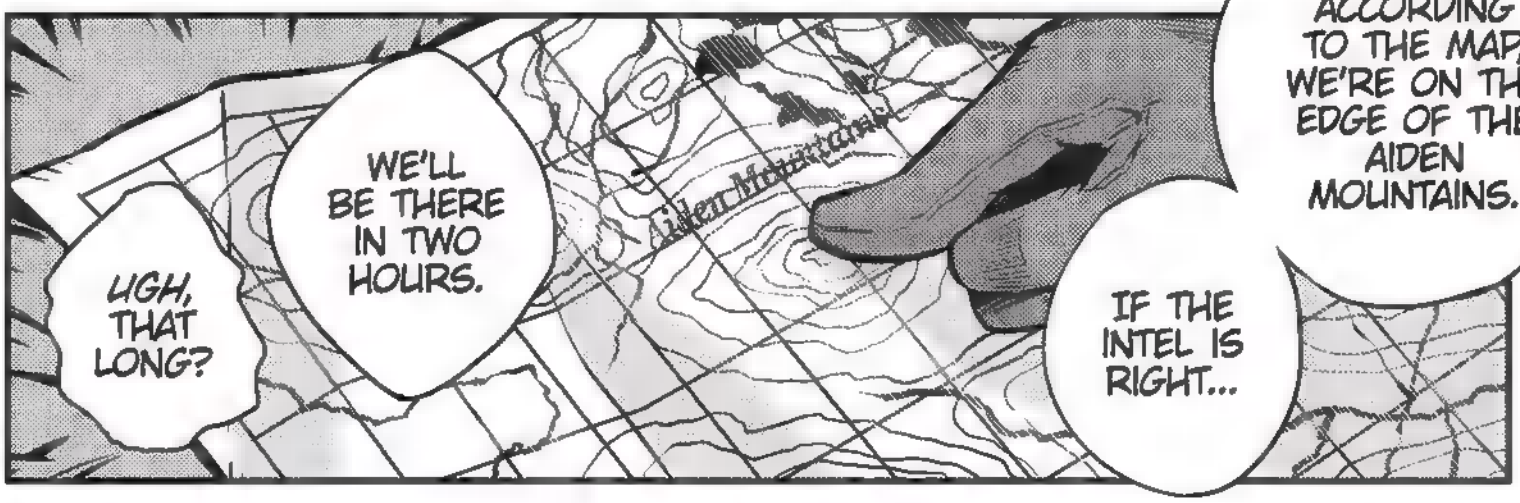
SHING

YOU ASKED FOR IT!

HOW WOULD THAT EVEN WORK? COME HERE AND TRY IT!

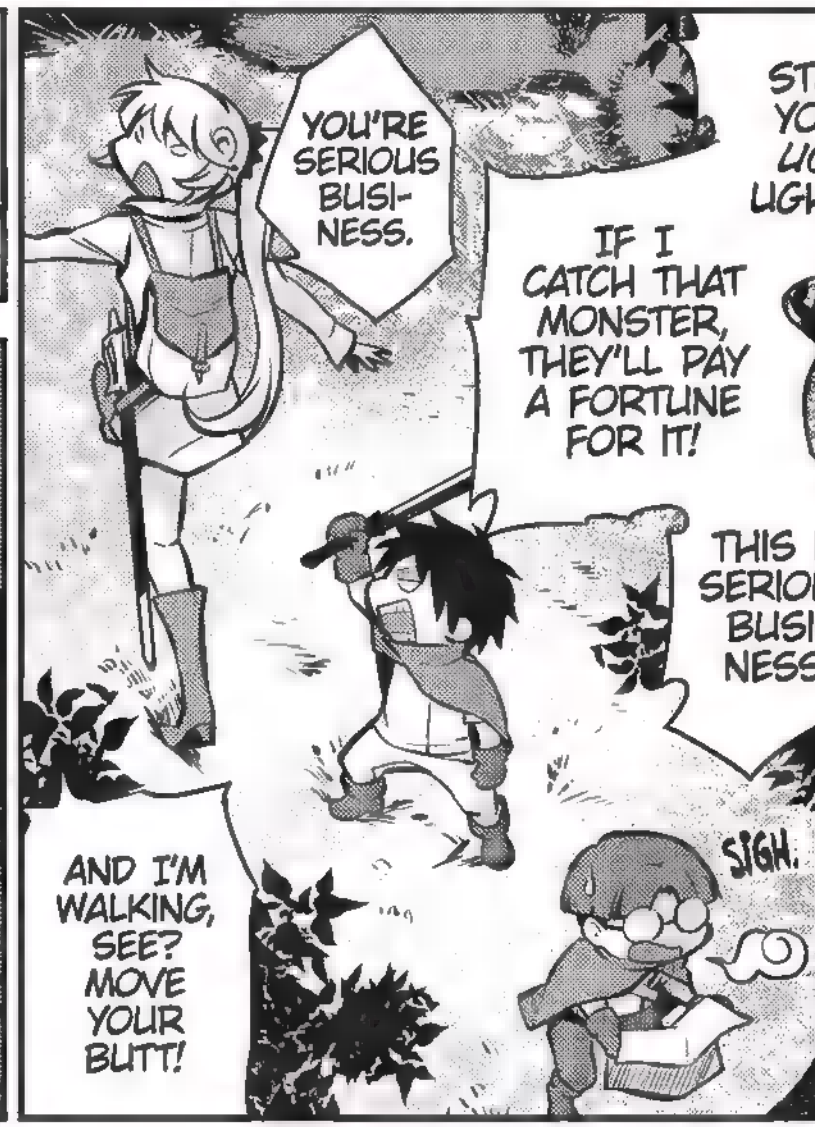
L-LET'S ALL JUST CALM DOWN!

WHOA, STOP! PLEASE!


LOOK. ACCORDING TO THE MAP, WE'RE ON THE EDGE OF THE AIDEN MOUNTAINS.
IF THE INTEL IS RIGHT...
WE'LL BE THERE IN TWO HOURS.
UGH, THAT LONG?

RUSTLE

GLEAM


YOU'RE SERIOUS BUSI-NESS.
STUFF YOUR UGH, UGH-LY!
IF I CATCH THAT MONSTER, THEY'LL PAY A FORTUNE FOR IT!
THIS IS SERIOUS BUSI-NESS!
AND I'M WALKING, SEE? MOVE YOUR BUTT!
SIGH.

FSHOOOO

UH...
UH-OH.
MOOONSTERRRR!!
GRAAAAH
AAAAAHHHR!!

CHAPTER 7: NIGHT HUNT ②

Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN

CLOMP

CLOMP

CLOMP

GLANCE

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THE GUY IN BACK...

THE KINGDOM'S GOVERN-MENT USUALLY HAS TO SIGN OFF ON IT.

FOR THIS MANY SORCERERS TO WORK TOGETHER ON A MISSION...

SO OUR HUNT'S ILLEGAL.

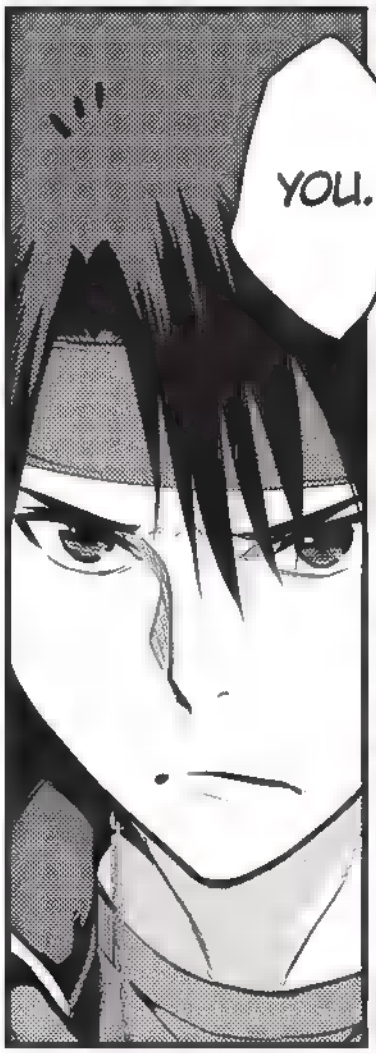
THAT'S THE SYMBOL OF RARE, POWERFUL SORCERERS USUALLY LOCKED AWAY FROM THE WORLD...

THAT CREST WITH A DIE AND SHIP.

GL INT

A WHITE SORCERER! HOW DID CHILDMAN LAND HIM?

IF HE CAN, IT WILL BE A BOON, BUT I'M NOT DEPENDING ON IT.
HIM SEALING THE BEAST'S POWER WOULD BE AKIN TO CATCHING A THROWN KNIFE BY ITS BLADE.
HEY. YOUR WHITE SORCER-ER.
CAN HE SHUT OFF AZALIE'S POWER?
POSSIBLY.
THEN YOU BROUGHT HIM--AND THE REST OF US--AS CANNON FODDER.
YOU DON'T CARE HOW MANY OF US DIE...
AS LONG AS ONE OF US LIVES LONG ENOUGH TO FRY AZALIE'S BRAIN, HUH?
EVERYONE AGREED TO THIS PLAN.



HALT, EVERYONE. WE TAKE OUR FINAL BREAK HERE!

FEH.

DESPITE YOUR... ROUGH EDGES.

YOU ARE YOUNG, POWERFUL, AND HAVE TRUE BATTLE EXPERI-ENCE.

TMP

AND IF YOU DIE...

I WON'T HAVE TO FILE ANY PAPER-WORK.

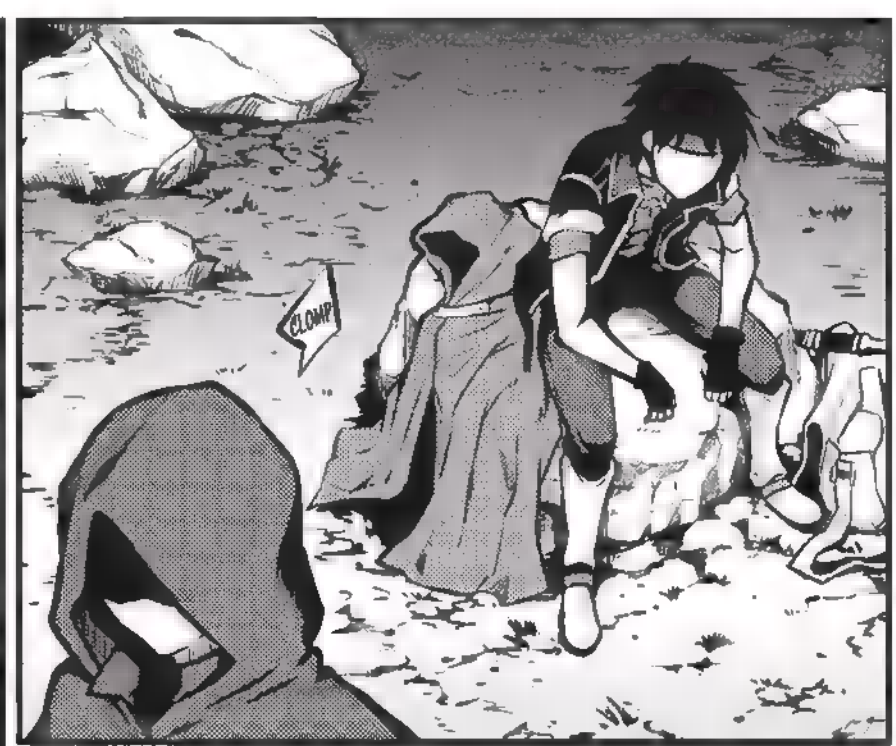
SHIK

PHEW.

GLUG
GLUG

FWI,

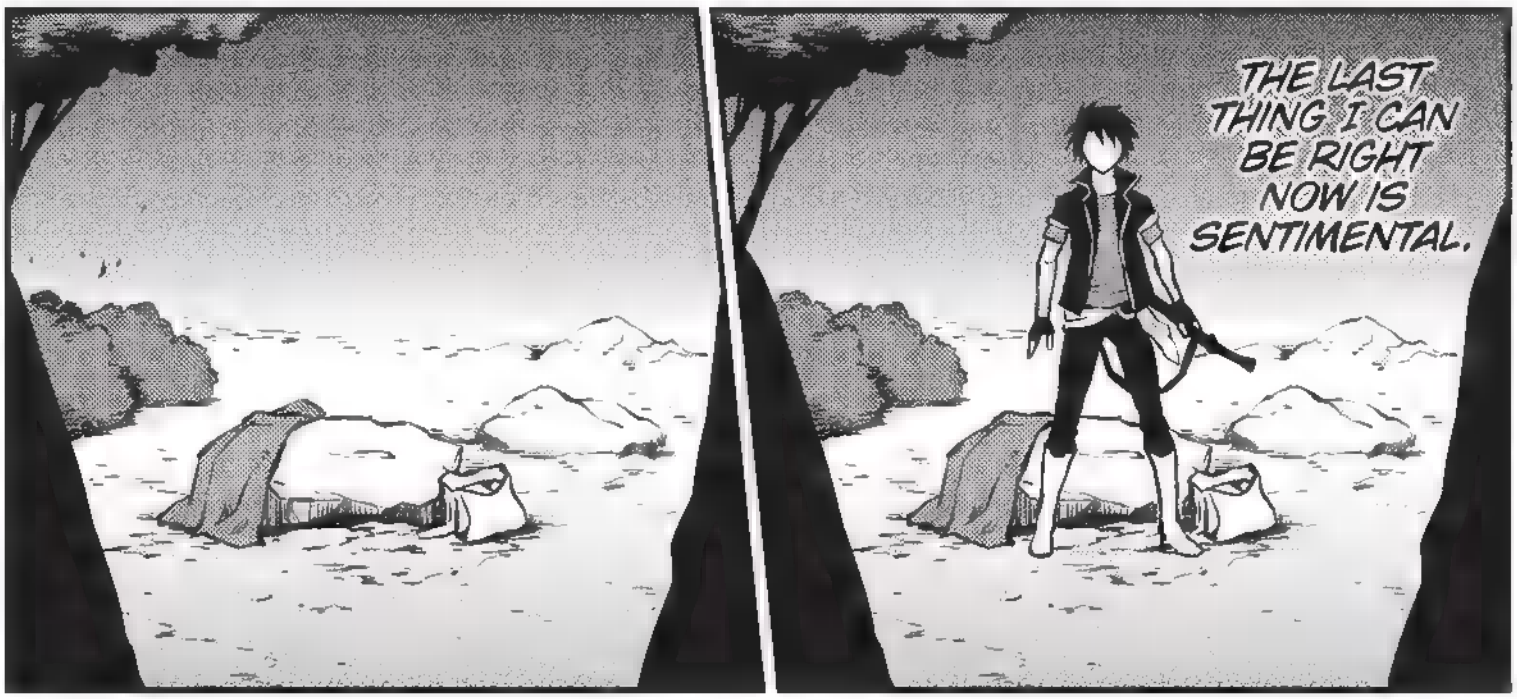
IIISH



OF COURSE THERE ARE PEOPLE I KNOW HERE.

CHILDMAN SAID HE BROUGHT THE BEST.

BUT...



BWTSH
TUP
TUP
TUP
THAT MUST MEAN AZALIE'S WAITING ON THE OTHER END OF IT!
BUT EVER SINCE WE HIT THIS RAVINE, WE'VE BEEN GOING IN A STRAIGHT LINE.
WE FOLLOWED THE SIGNAL FROM THE SPELL CHILDMAN CAST ON THE SWORD...

AND CHILDMAN HIMSELF, WHO'S ON PAR WITH THE TOWER'S HIGHEST-RANKED ELDERS: THE THIRTEEN APOSTLES.

A SQUAD OF THE TOWER'S TOP STUDENTS, A WHITE SORCERER...

I'VE WALKED IN HIS SHADOW MY ENTIRE LIFE. I'VE NEVER BEATEN HIM AT ANYTHING.

CAN I REALLY PULL IT OFF NOW?

GRIT

TMP

TMP

TMP

I'VE GOTTA PULL MYSELF TOGETH-ER!

AZALIE'S LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!

TMP

HWISH

I HAVE TO FIND HER BEFORE THEY DO!

GRAB

TWITCH

SILENCE

SKSHH

TUP

HHH

AZALIE!!
MY BRAIN'S TELLING ME THAT MAKING NOISE RIGHT NOW WOULD BE STUPID...
BUT I'VE ALWAYS LISTENED TO MY GUT, SO TO HELL WITH IT...!
GRYAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!
?!

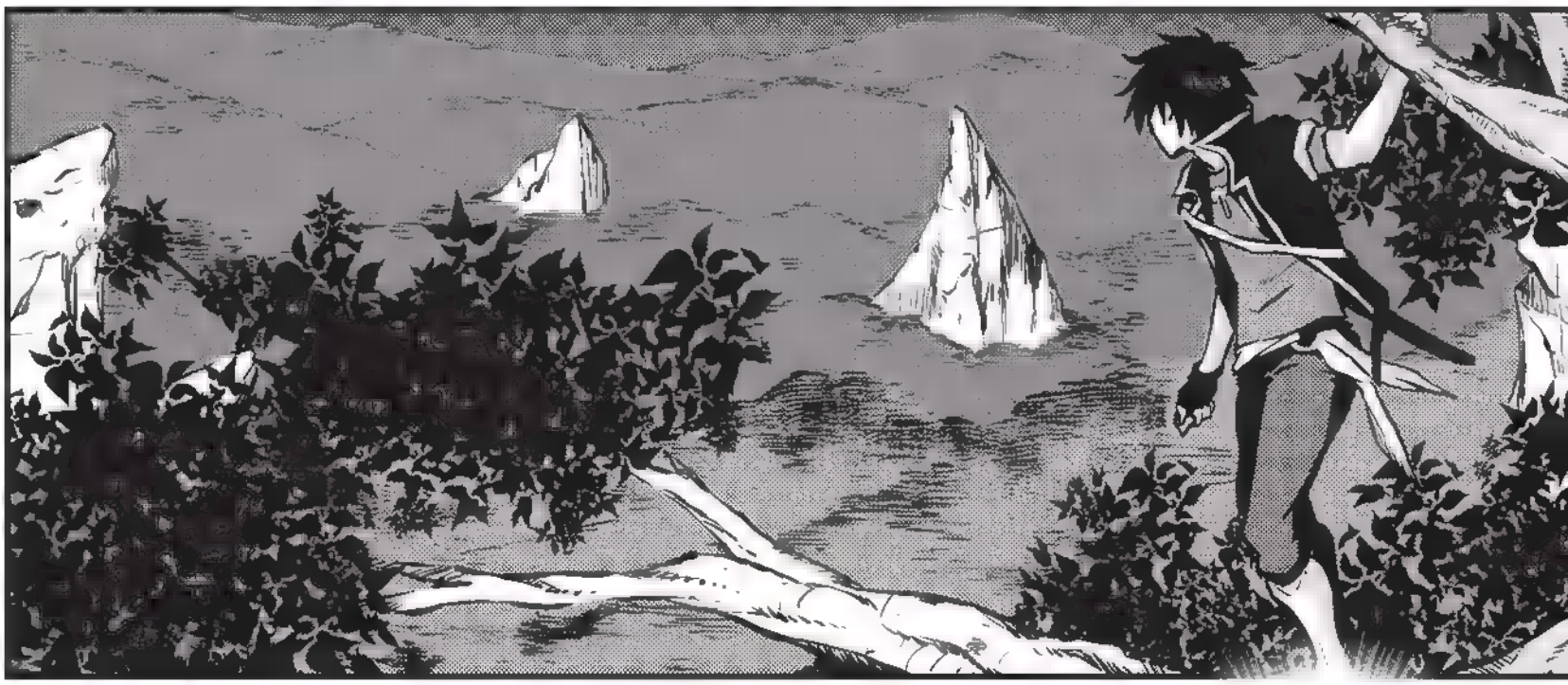
RUSTLE

SHE ANSWERED ME?!

TUP

TUP

FWISH

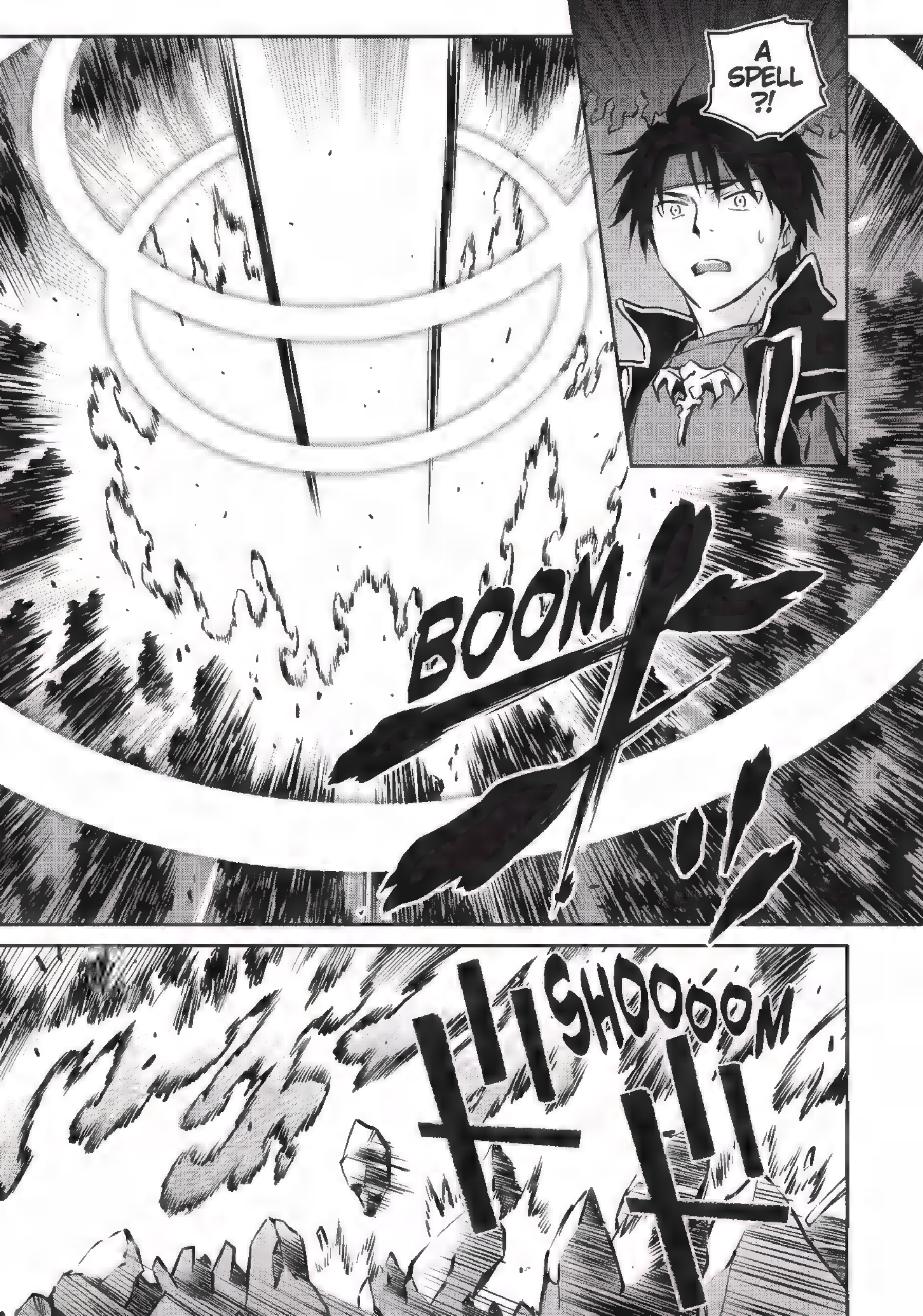


FOOSH

AZA--

NO... THAT WAS A ROAR OF WARNING.

IF I LOSE HER HERE, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TRACK HER DOWN AGAIN!


A SPELL ?!
BOOM
SHOOOOM

FOOM
FWSH
FWOOO
SHING
THUNK
OOOOOM

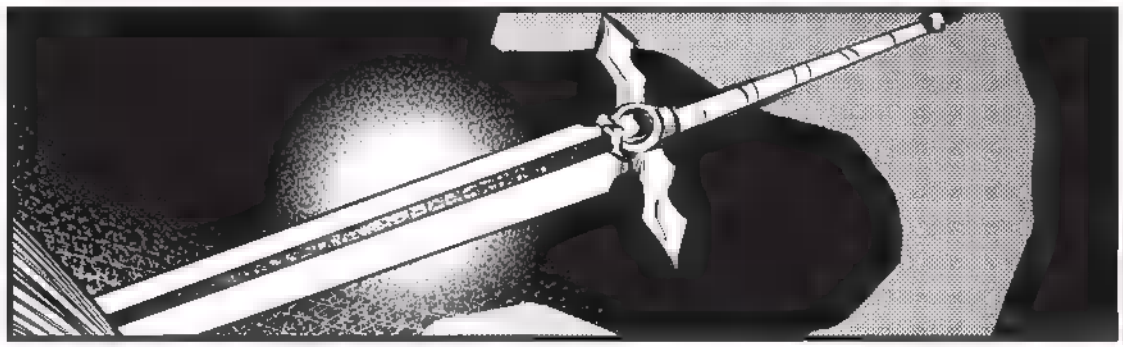
WH-WHY DID SHE BURN THE FOREST TO THE GROUND...?

CHAK
GRROOOO

WE CAN'T DO THIS ANY-MORE...!

AZALIE, IT'S ME!

I KNOW YOU REMEM-BER ME!



WE'RE OUT OF TIME-- LET ME GET YOU OUT OF HERE!

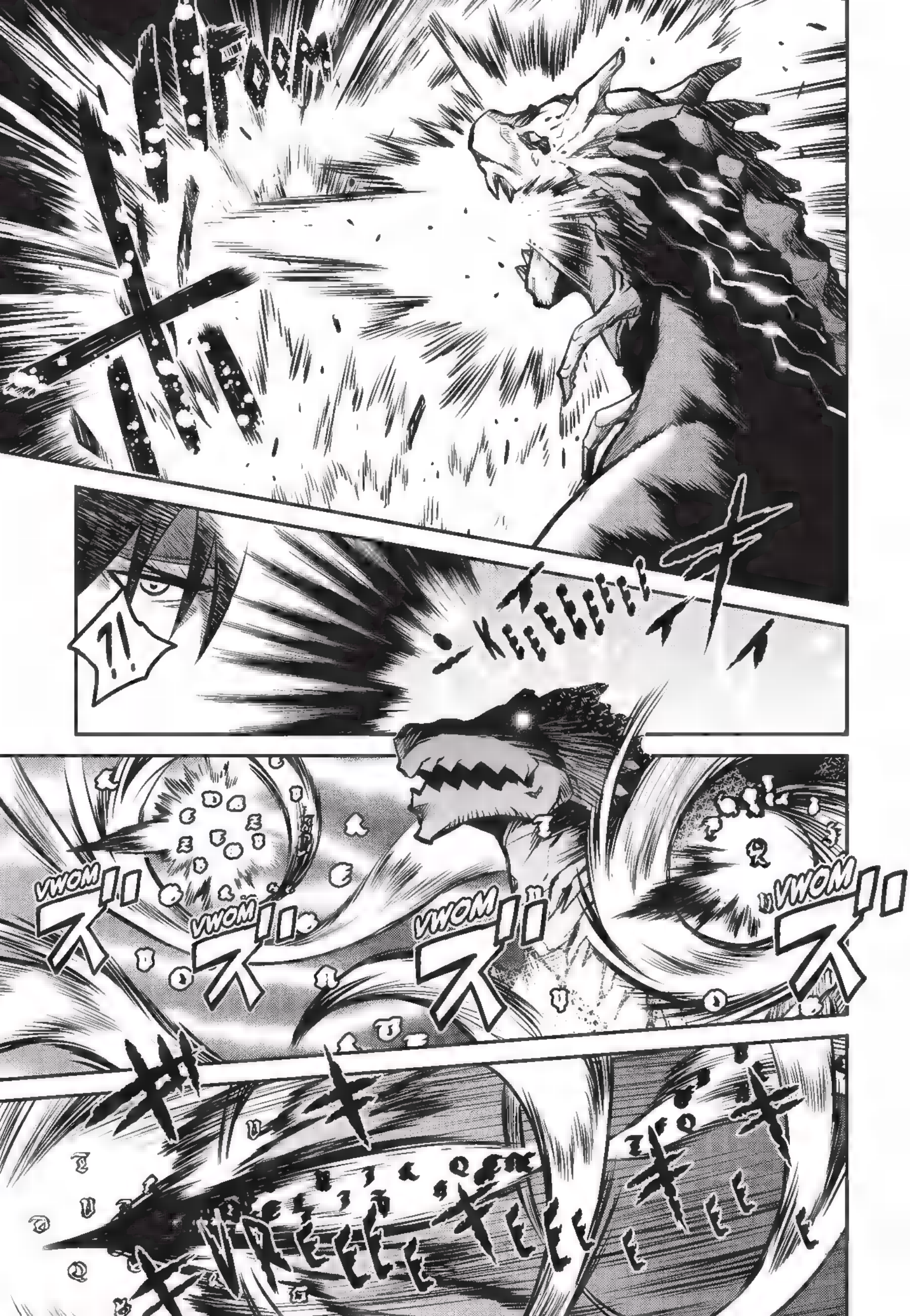
SHRAK

WAIT... NOW I KNOW WHY SHE LEVELED THE FOREST.

SHE WAS CLEARING A BATTLE-FIELD TO FIGHT THE SORCERERS!

Halo Armor!
FWACK
?!

WOOM
BWISH
Halo Armor!


FOOM
?!
KEEEEEEEE
VWOM
VWOM
VWOM
VWOM
PREEEEEEEEE

Gather at my command ...

Shield of Amber!

THWAK

THWAK

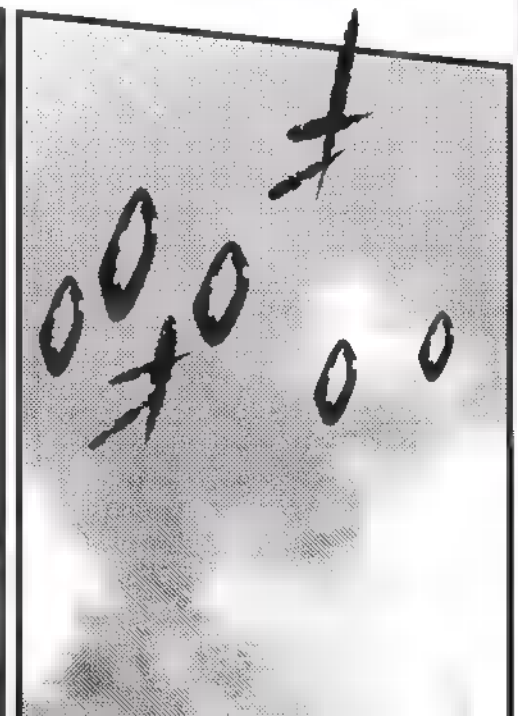
COME ON, AZALIE ...!

SH

SHT

NK

ARE YOU REALLY TRYING TO KILL ME...?



FORGET RUNNING AWAY WITH HER...

WOBBLE...

FLASH

Hark, O Light!

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

I'M GONNA DIE AT HER FEET!

I THOUGHT I'D... LOST YOUR ASS.

SHFF

C- CAUGHT UP WITH ME ALREADY, HUH?

TMP

TMP

I TOLD YOU AT THE START.

YOU WOULD BE THE ONE TO LEAD THIS SQUAD.

CHAPTER 8: NIGHT HUNT ③
Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN

SHUFF

SEAL ITS CONSCIOUS-NESS.

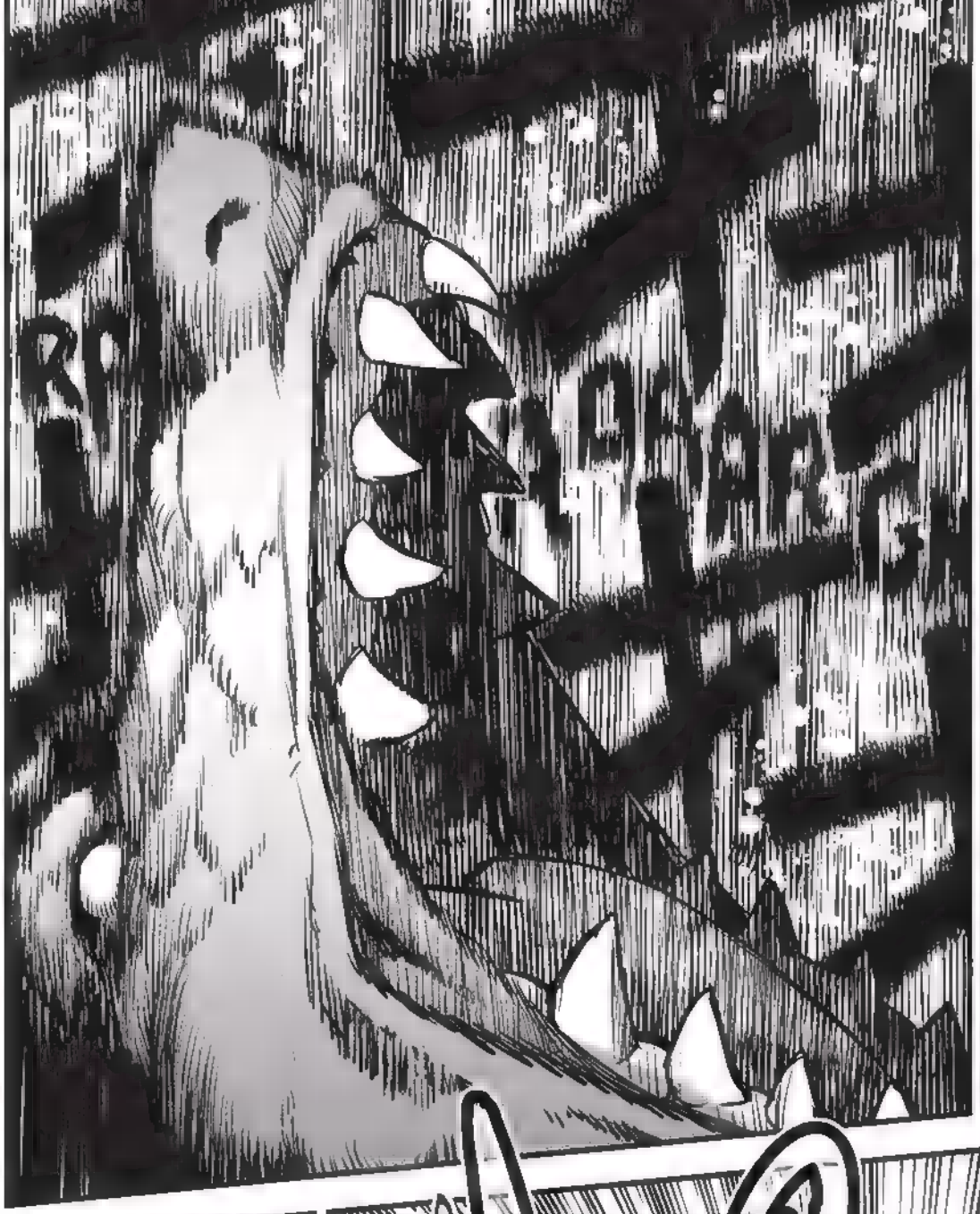
MURMUR

TMP

TMP

FLAP

BWOOSH
WHITE SORCERY ...
SHFF
DAMN IT ALL TO HELL!



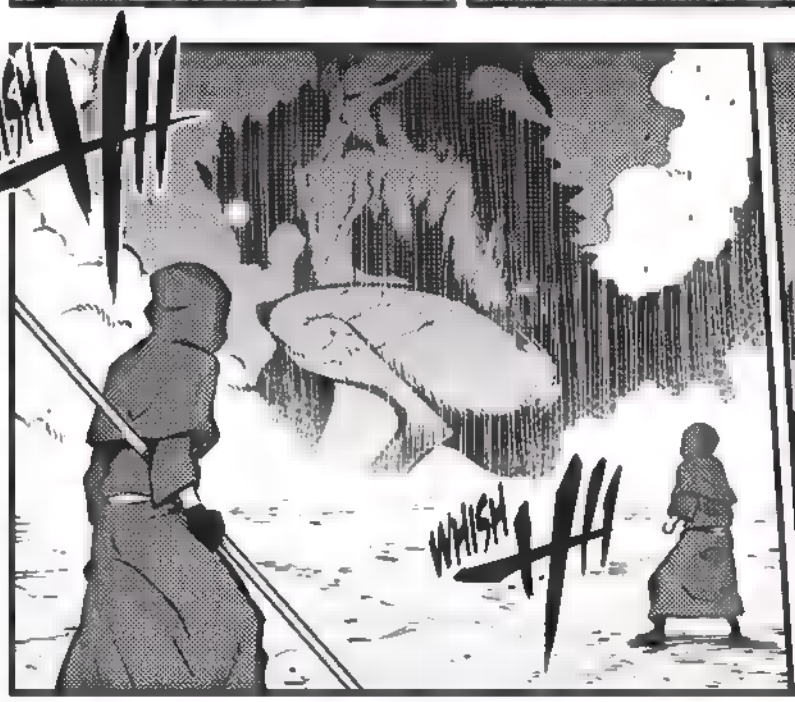
HH GLOMP
STAY ALERT.
DO NOT LET KRYLANCELO INTERFERE.

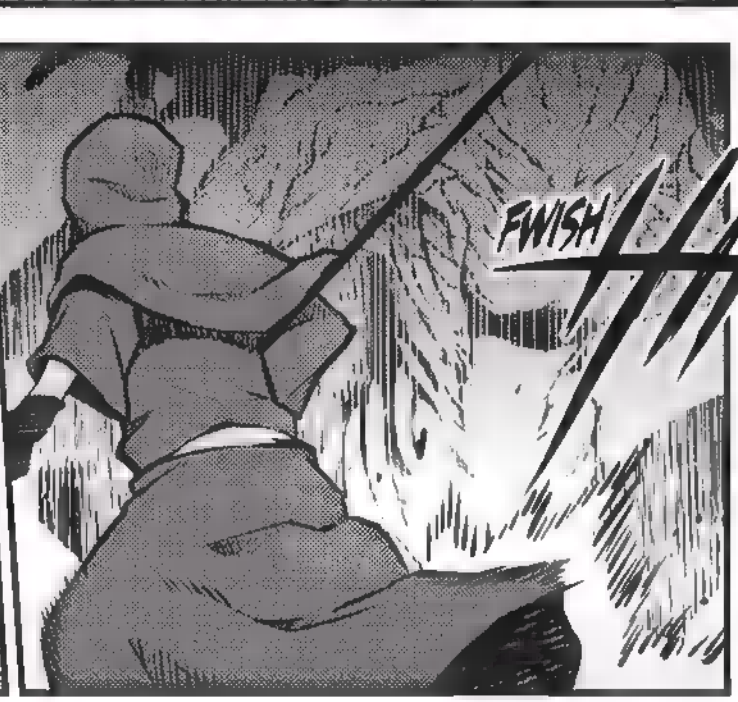
FWAAAH
GLEAM
?!

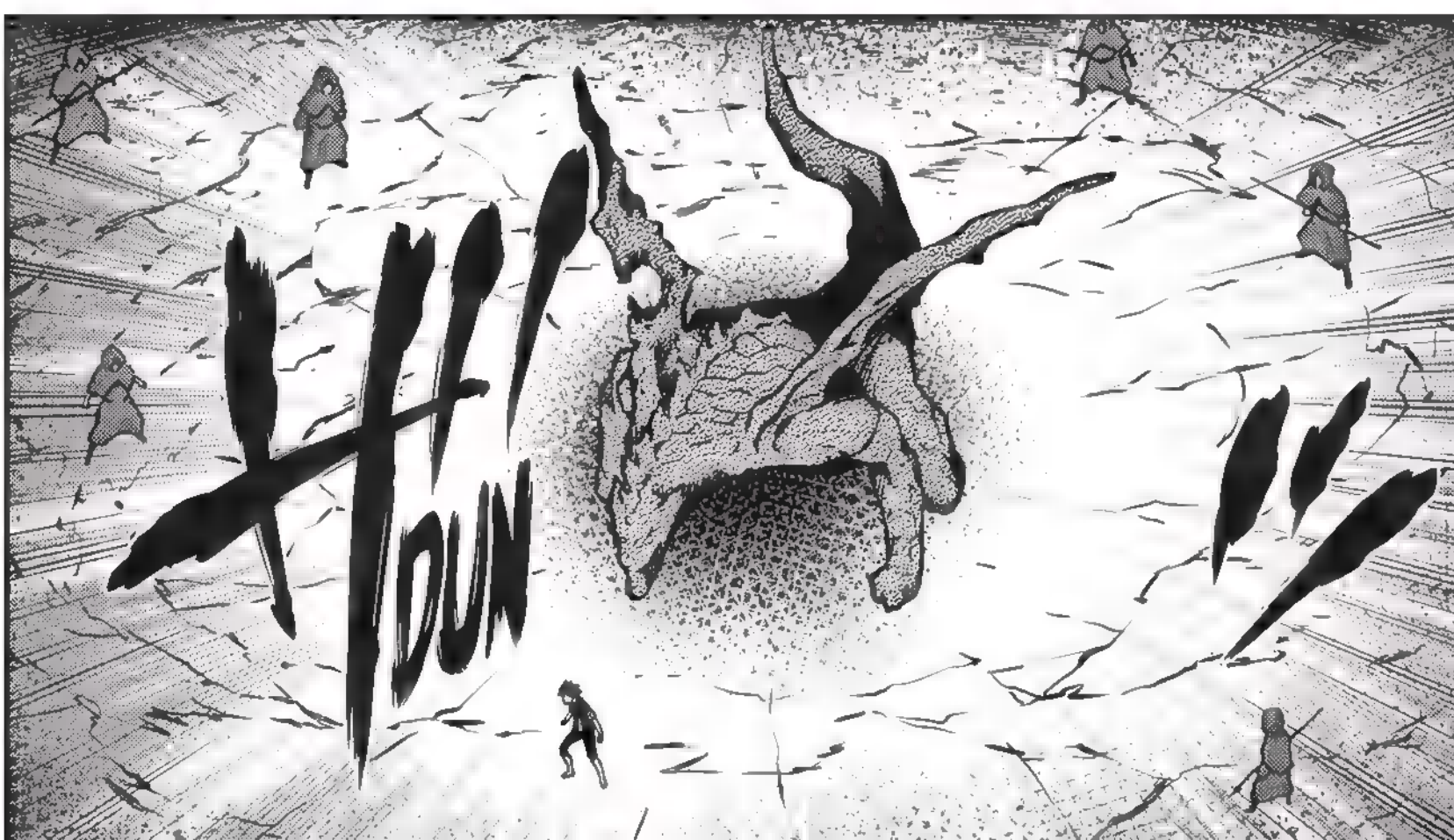
FWOOM
HAGH!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
TH-THAT FAST?!
...
HOOO...

RASH!

SCATTER!
SWISH


WHISH
WHISH


FWISH


DUN

GIVE NO QUAR-TER!

SLAY THE BEAST!

Flames!

Light!

Light-ning!

THUMMM
THUMMM
THUMMM
?!
THUMMM
ZWISH
FOOSH

TCH!
NO MERCY AT ALL.
WHIRL
SHO
OM

AZALIE

...

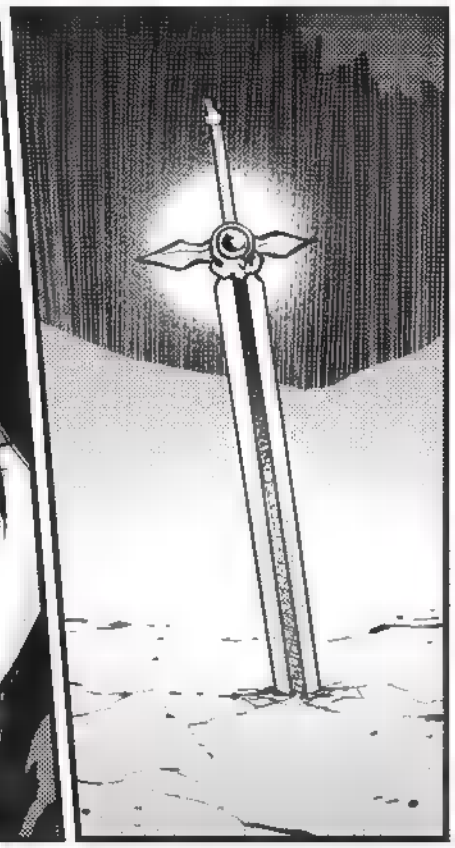
WHOM

WHOM

YOUR HUMAN HEART?

HAVE YOU REALLY LOST YOUR HUMAN MIND?

FWOOSH



I dance through thee...

SWIRRR

Corri-
dors of
Heaven!

CHOOM

SNATCH

YES, SIR!

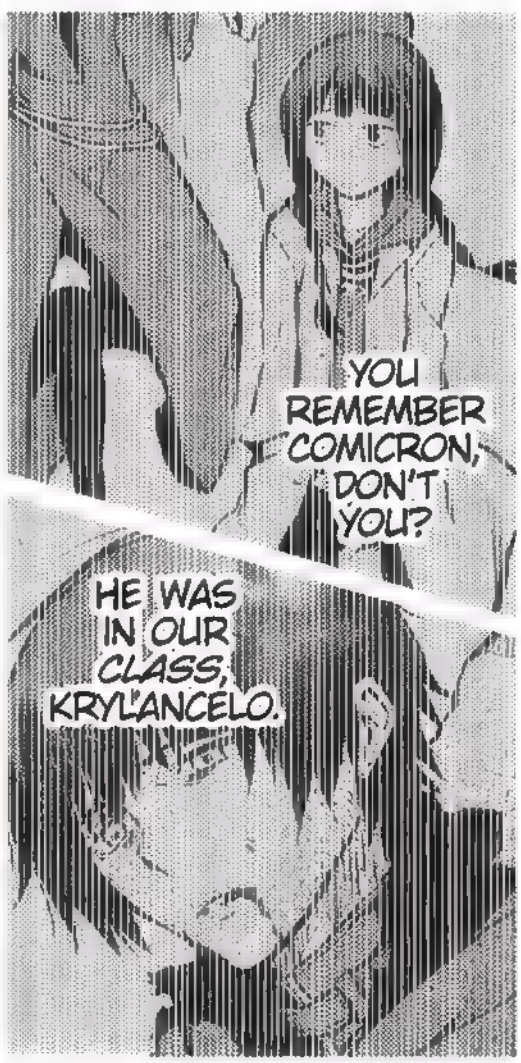
DASH

AFTER HIM!

KRYLAN-
CELO IS
FLEEING
WITH THE
SWORD!

BWOOM

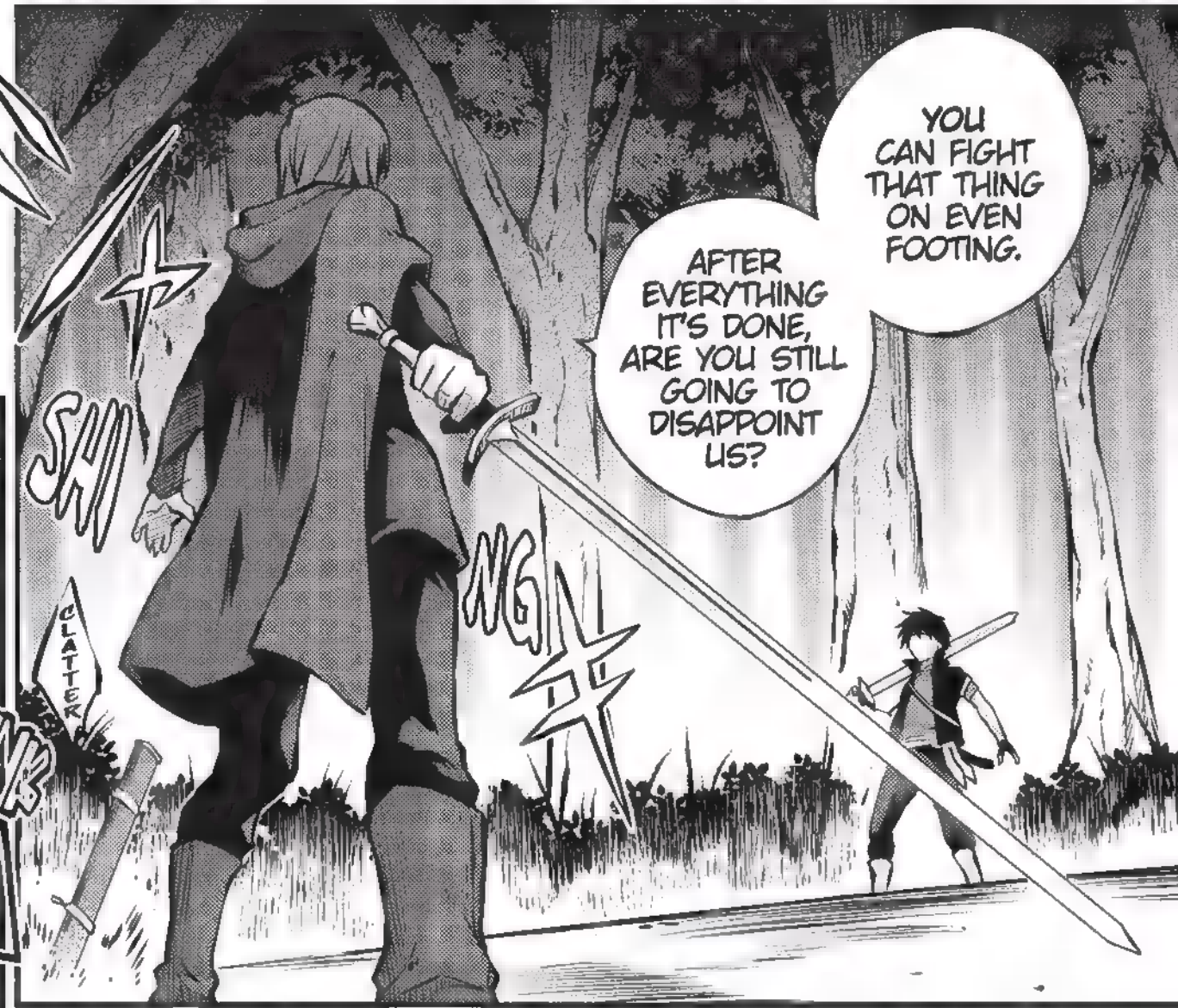
SKSH
SKSH
SKSH
Flames!
AZALIE, TAKE THIS CHANCE AND RUN!
SKSH
CHILDMAN CAN'T TRACK HER IF SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE SWORD.
SKSH
FWOOSH
?!
SKSSHHHH


YOU REMEMBER COMICRON, DON'T YOU?
HE WAS IN OUR CLASS, KRYLANCELO.

IT JUST KILLED COMICRON.
SHFF

CAN YOU STILL CALL THAT MONSTER "HER"?

THUNK


YOU CAN FIGHT THAT THING ON EVEN FOOTING.
AFTER EVERYTHING IT'S DONE, ARE YOU STILL GOING TO DISAPPOINT US?
SHI
NGN
CLATTER

I'LL DO WHAT IT TAKES, HEARTIA!

AZALIE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO FIGURED OUT HOW TO USE THAT SWORD.

NO ONE CAN CHANGE HER BACK.

YOU CAN'T SAVE HER, KRYLANCELO. YOU CAN'T EVEN READ *BASIC* WYRD GLYPHS.

I WON'T KILL AZALIE.

CHK

THAT ISN'T HER. IT'S A MINDLESS, SOULLESS BEAST.

HEH. I GUESS OUR OPINIONS ...

SHALL *NEVER* INTER-SECT.

SKFF

Sword of Li--

I release thee!

O Shadows!

SHWOOF

FSH

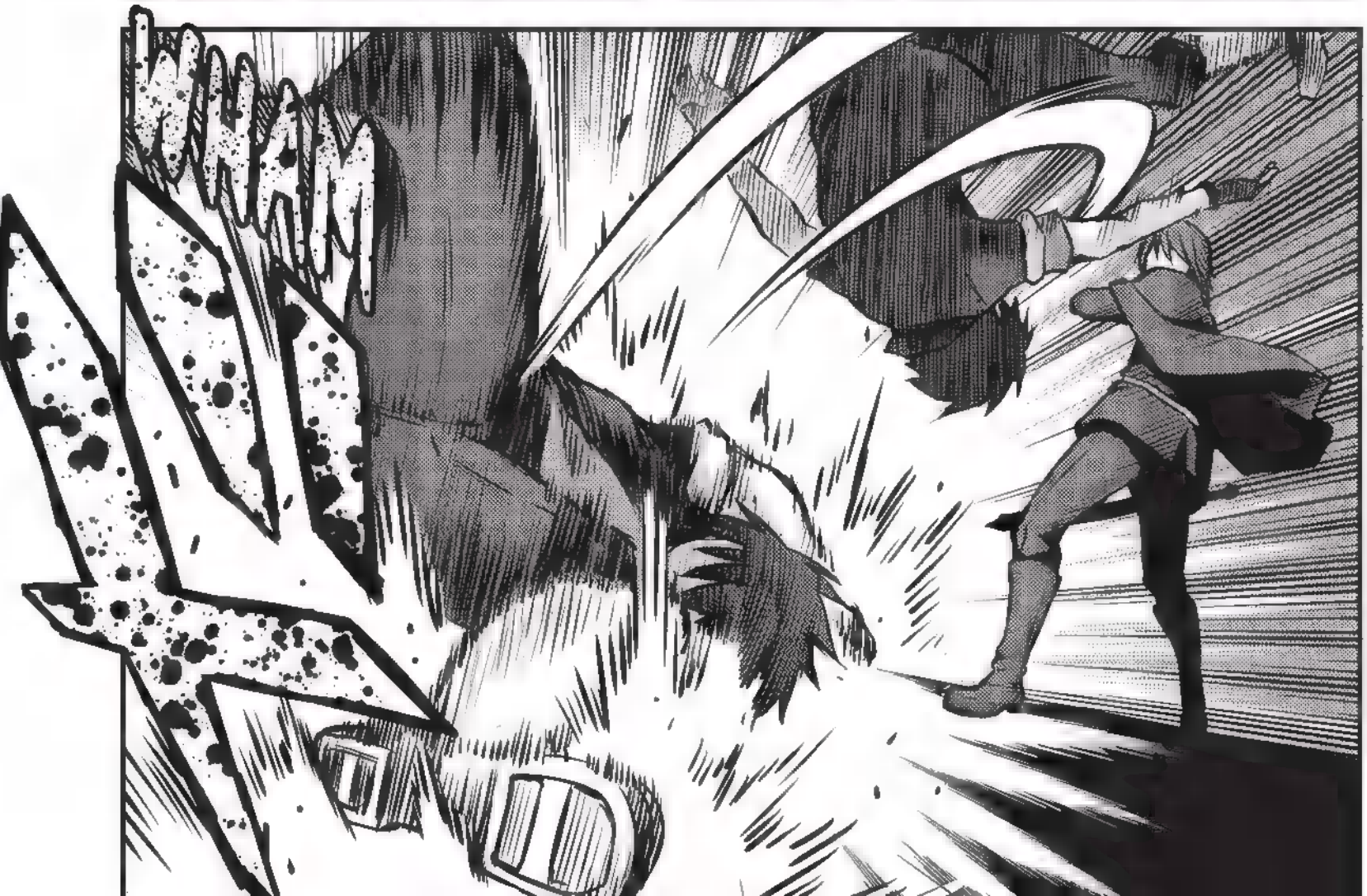
TCH!

STO

RUSTLE

...

SWISH
I release thee--


WHAM

I erase thee...

Foot-prints of Evil!

FWISH

NGH!

BA-BWISH!!

KRIK KRAK

HYAAAAAAAAH!!

SKRI

WHA...?

SH

H
?
H

KER-

THUD

BOOM

NNGH.

ORPHEN, *WAIT!*

I dance through thee, Corridors of Heaven!

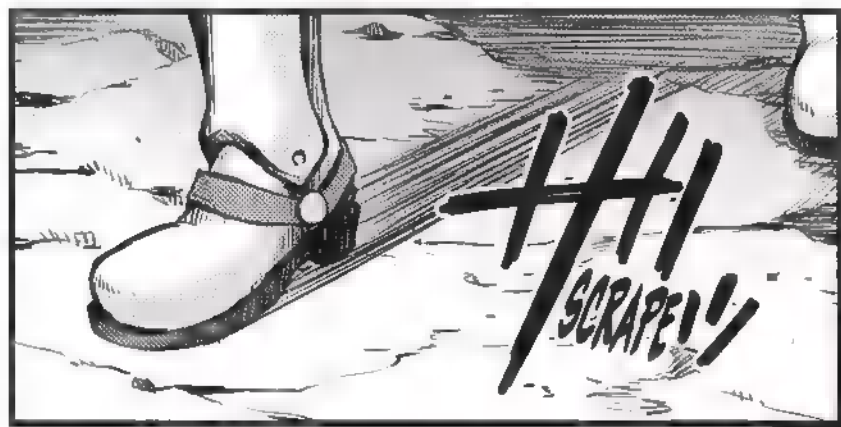
GAH!

ZOOM

Hey!

CRIPES... IT WAS JUST A HAIRY HOWLER.

NOW THAT YOU'RE DONE RUNNING FROM A *FOREST ANIMAL*, STAY HERE AND WATCH THE SWORD.

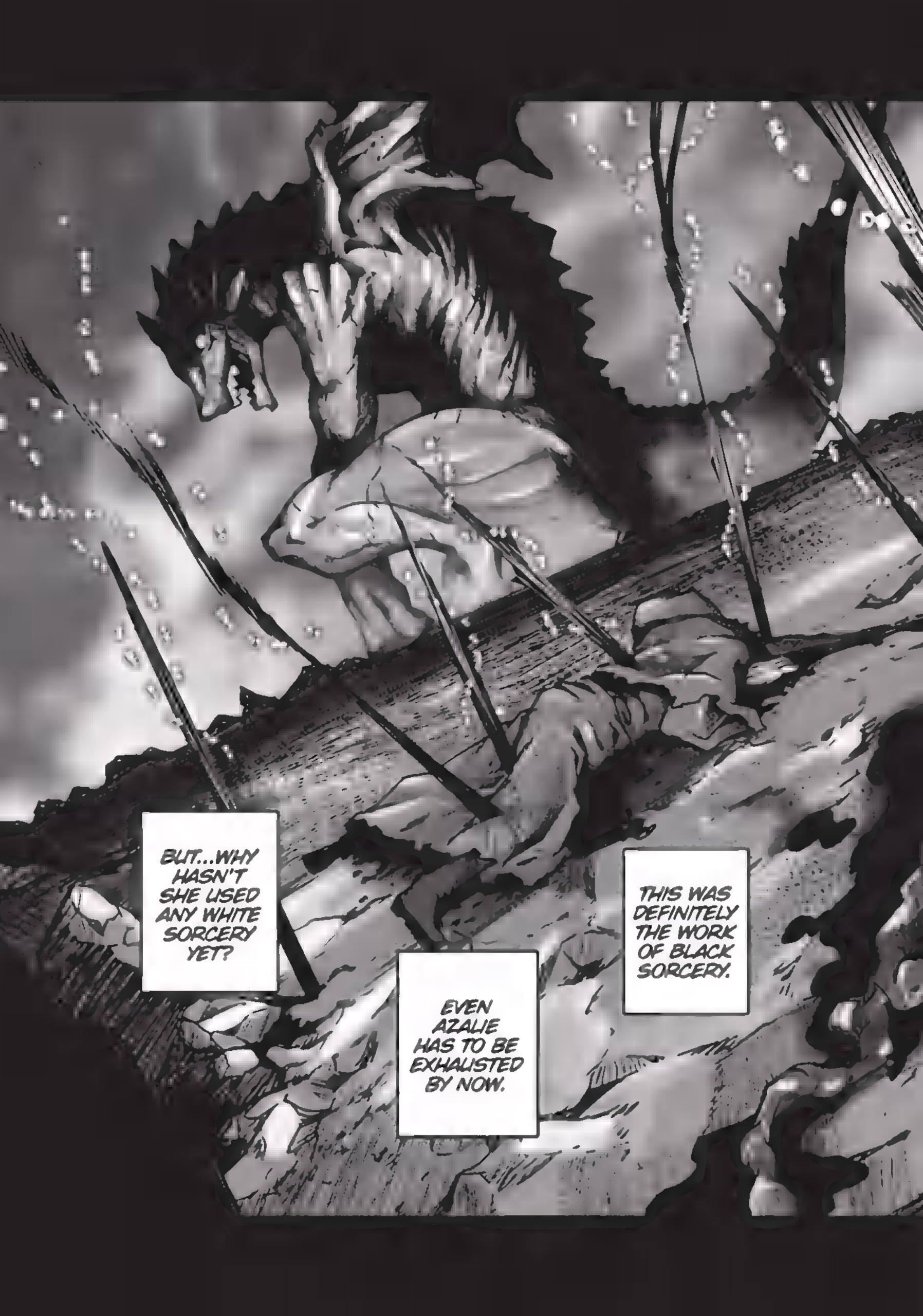

SCRAPE!!

HUH?

IT... CAN'T BE.

NO FAIR USING A SPELL TO RUN AWAY! ORPHE-EEEN!

SHE WIPED THEM ALL OUT?!


BUT...WHY HASN'T SHE USED ANY WHITE SORCERY YET?
EVEN AZALIE HAS TO BE EXHAUSTED BY NOW.
THIS WAS DEFINITELY THE WORK OF BLACK SORCERY.

FOOM
CHILDMAN?!

Light!

SHWOOO
PASH
Come, Wall!
VIMMM
PASH

FWOOSH!!

Halo Armor!

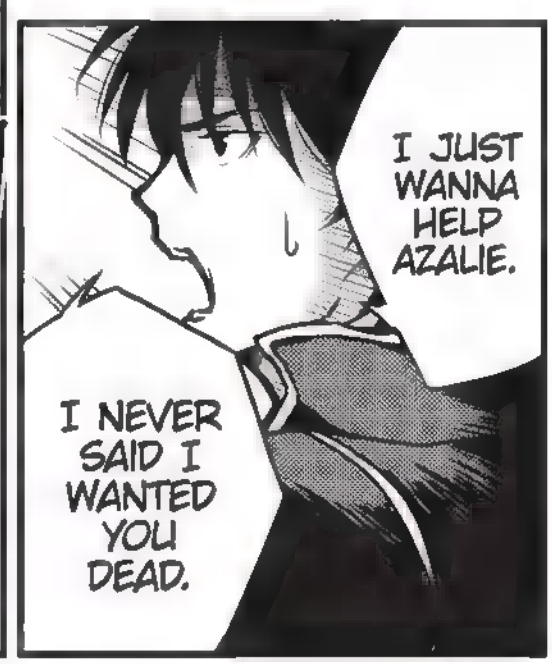
Light!

I SEE.

FOOM!!!

WHOOSH!!

KNOCK IT OFF, DAMMIT!



I SEE YOU CAN MULTI-TASK.

FSSSH

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU CAN CONTINUE BLOCKING MY ATTACKS *AND* THE BEAST'S?

SKRASH

THERE HAS TO BE A WAY TO SAVE HER.

I'M TRYING TO MAKE YOU *UNDER-STAND!*

IF WE CAN JUST FIGURE OUT HOW TO USE THE SWORD OF BALDANDERS ...!

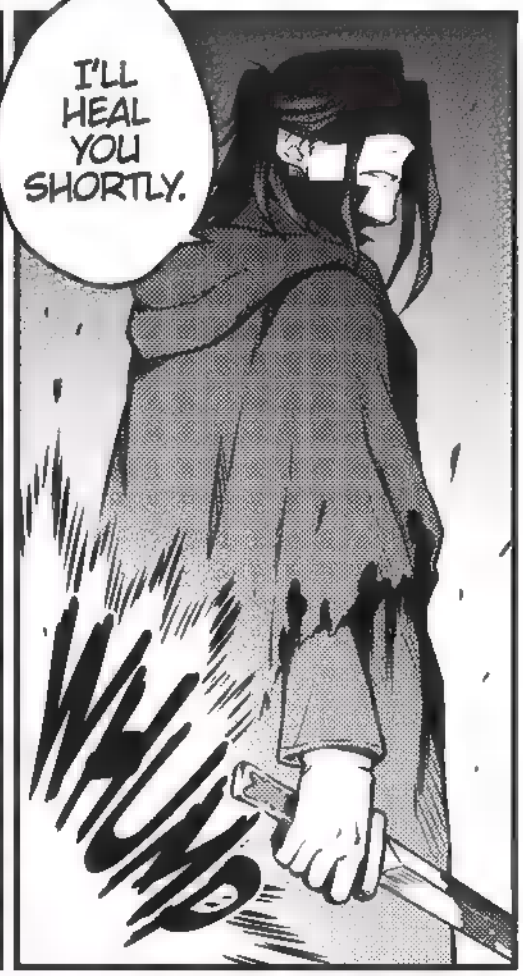
YOU'VE GROWN UP INTO A GOOD MAN...
HEH.
KRYLAN-CELO.
SHIFF
UH, WHAT? WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH--

SPLUK

CHAK
JUST AS SOON AS I FINISH WHAT I CAME TO DO.

BWISH

YOU... BASTARD ...


I'LL HEAL YOU SHORTLY.
WHUMB

O CHAOS!
BOOM

SHOOOOM
GRAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
HKK...!

CHILD-MAN... ST-STOP ...!

CHAPTER 9: THE CHAOS WITCH ⑪

DON'T... PLEASE ...!

CHAPTER 9: THE CHAOS WITCH ⑪

Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN

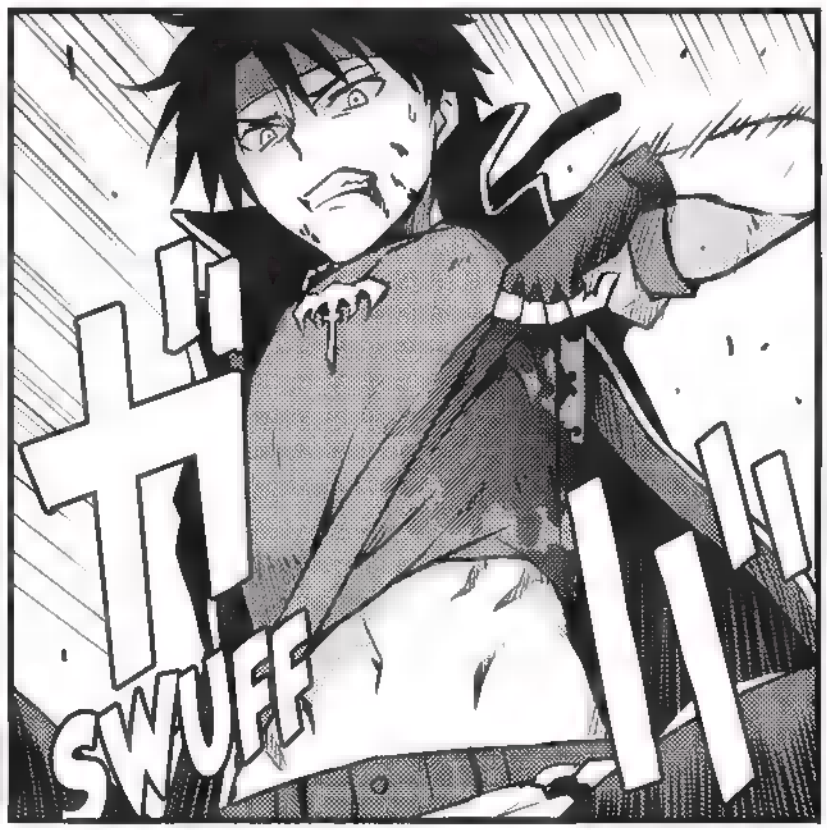
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
IN THE END...
HUFF!
SWF
HUFF!
IS HE STILL THAT MUCH STRONGER THAN ME?

HEAL!

BA-

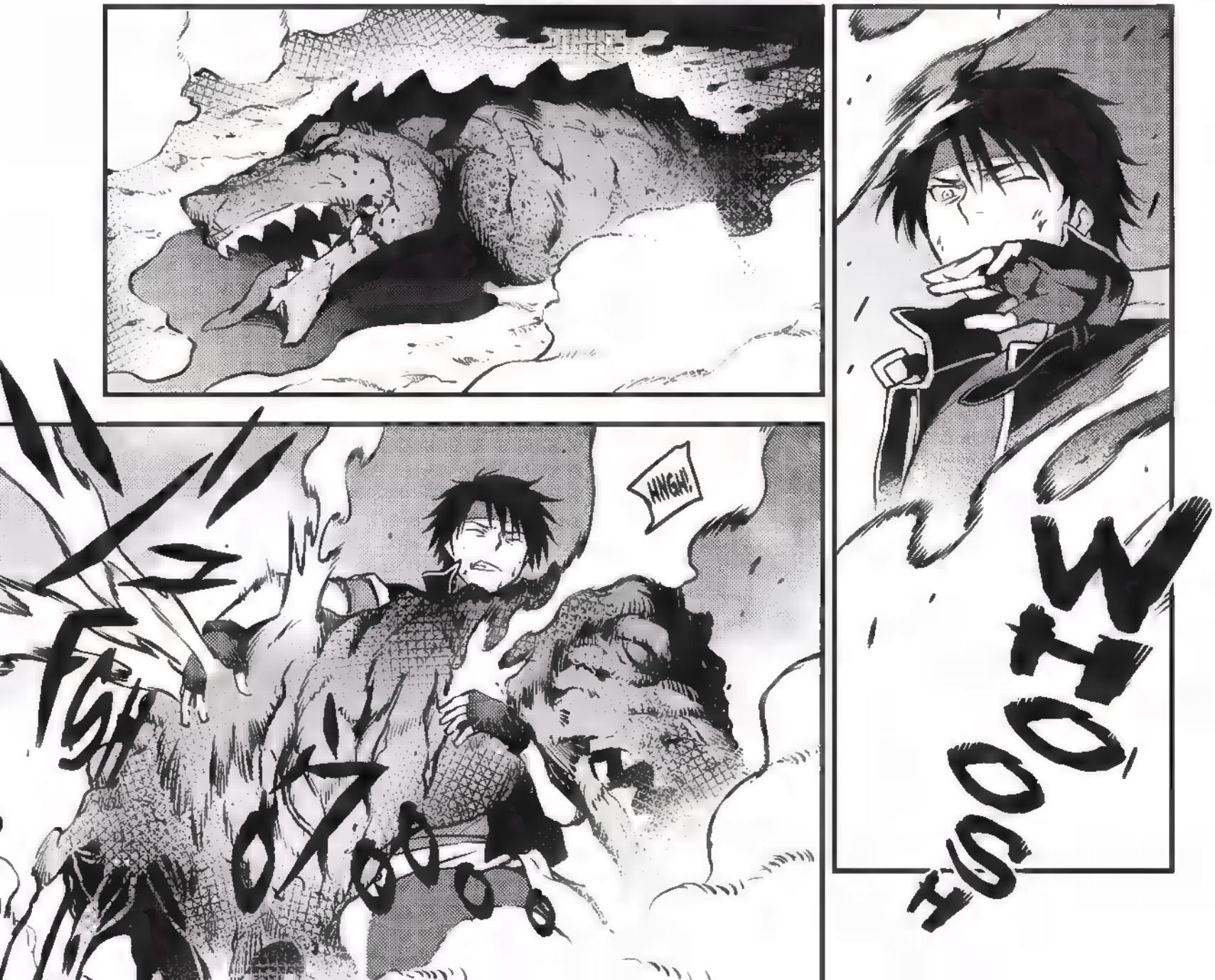
!!

DUM



DASH

AZA-LIE!



AZALIE... IT'S ME. ORPH...

IT'S KRYLAN-CELO.

I CANNOT... SEE...

MY EYES... ARE BLIND.

ONLY... HEAR.

ALL I WANTED...

WAS TO RESCUE HER.

HUFF!

NOW YOU MUST

BWSH

IZZGT!

SAVE HER...

HUFF!

WH...

YOU SNEAKY ASS-HOLE!

STOP FILLING THE AIR WITH YOUR ENDLESS SCREAMING!
HEAVE
HO
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE PUTTING YOUR HANDS, YOU... MASKED PERVERT ?!
GYAH!
AND BEFORE YOU SAY ANYTHING, I'M STILL DEVELOPING THERE!
BOP
BOP
BOP
GRAH!
QUIT CARRYING ME LIKE A SACK OF POTATOES!
I RETRIEVED THE SWORD LIKE YOU ASKED, MASTER.
TUP TUP TUP TUP
GOOD.
BLEAAARRGH.
I COULD PUSH YOU TO DEATH ON A SWING!
OH...

WE'RE TAKING THE SWORD OF BALDANDERS BACK TO THE TOWER. BYE.

PHEW!

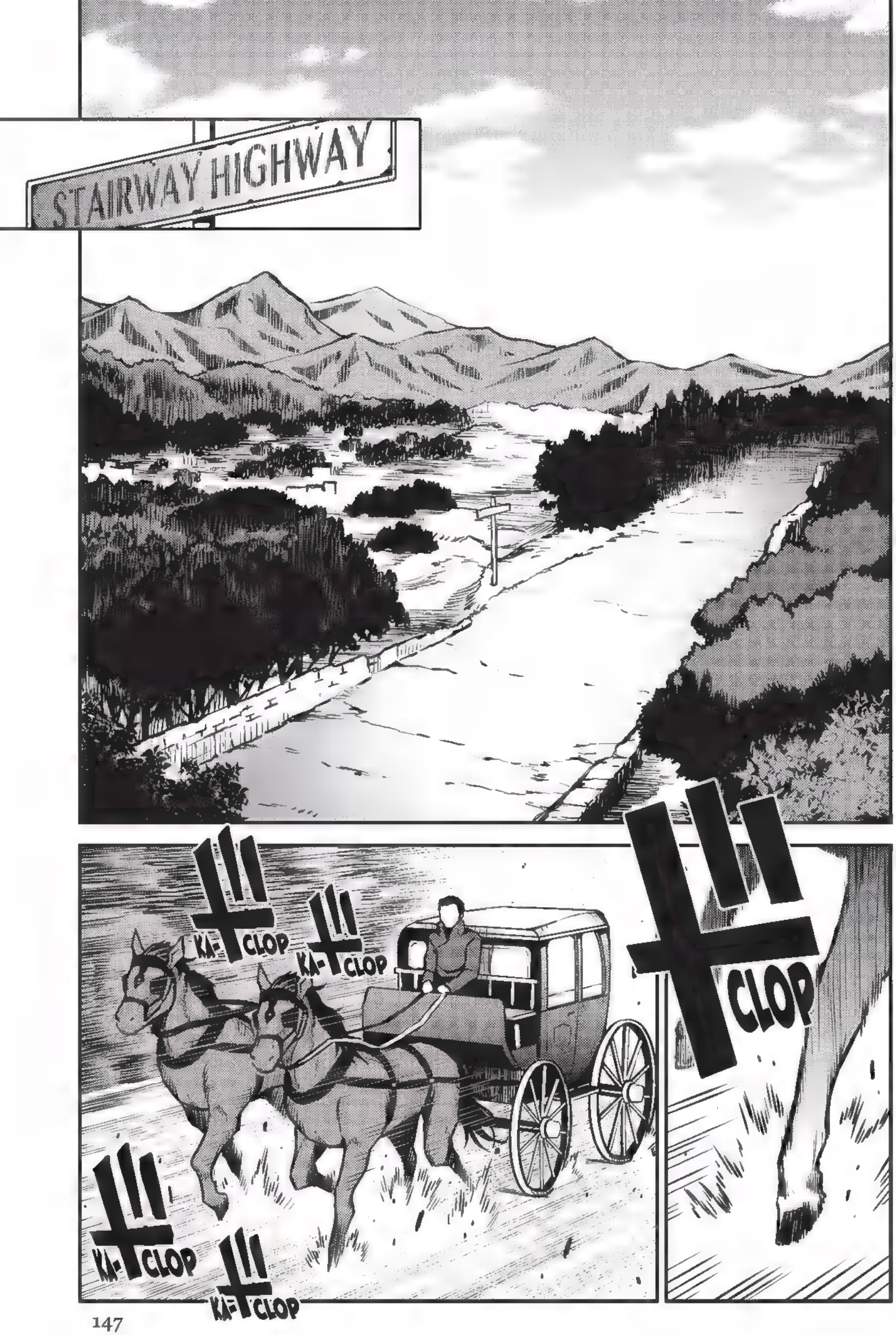
THOUGHT I WAS OUT? CAN'T MAKE FUN OF MY ACTING NOW, CAN YOU?

HEY. ORPHEN.

IS SHE... DEAD?

NOW I GET IT.

...


STAIRWAY HIGHWAY
KA-CLOP
KA-CLOP
CLOP
KA-CLOP
KA-CLOP

HOLD IT!

BWISH

OFF THE CART.

ARE YOU SUICIDAL, SIR?!

TUNK

CLACK

Huh?!

What?

RUN TO THE TOTOKANTA CITY GATE, TAG IT, AND COME BACK. GO.

GLINT

DASH

Y-YES, SIR! RIGHT AWAY!

FORGIVE MY RUDENESS...!

DO I?

I HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST IDEA.

REGARDING YOUR PUNISHMENT, I CONVINCED THE ELDERS NOT TO HAVE YOU HUNTED DOWN AND EXECUTED.

REAL TALKATIVE TODAY.

THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU. WELL...

TMP

BUT IT WAS THANKS TO YOU THAT WE LOCATED AND CORNERED THE BEAST.

SOME IN THE TOWER THINK OF YOU AS A TRAITOR.

THAT'S NOT LIKE CHILDMAN, ANYWAY.

WHEN DID YOU NOTICE?

RIGHT AFTER YOU KILLED WHAT YOU CALL "THE BEAST."

HE HUNG ON LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE ME A MESSAGE.

SCRAPE

I'VE BEEN CALLING FOR YOU. PLEASE, JUST ANSWER ME.
ALL THIS TIME...

AZALIE.

I DON'T KNOW YET.

TRY ME.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF I TOLD YOU?

WHY DID YOU DO IT...?

GOOD ANSWER.

YOU GOT TOUGH, KRYLAN-CELO.

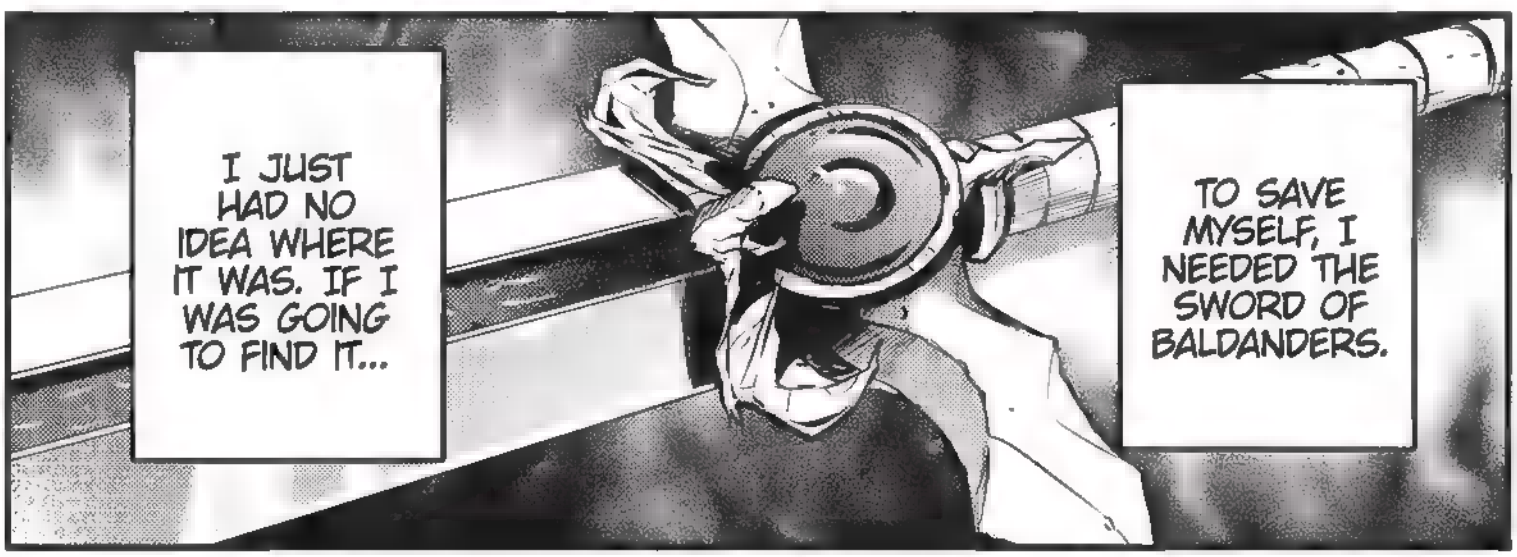
THE TOWER OF FANGS SENT A SQUAD OF ELITE SORCERERS--LED BY CHILDMAN--TO KILL ME AND DESTROY THE EVIDENCE OF THEIR FAILURE.

FIVE YEARS AGO, AFTER THE NIGHT I SCREWED UP THAT SPELL WITH THE SWORD...

I WAS STILL AWARE IN THAT BODY. STILL MYSELF.

I CLUNG TO MY HUMAN CONSCIOUS-NESS AND RAN, AVOIDING THEM FOR *FIVE YEARS.*

BUT I KNEW I'D EVENTUALLY FADE, AND THE BEAST WOULD TAKE OVER.



I WAITED FOR MY CHANCE...AND SWAPPED BODIES WITH HIM!

I SWITCHED OUR SOULS!

YES.

AND I NEEDED THE SORCERERS AFTER ME TO HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I WAS DOING.

YOU NEEDED CHILD-MAN.

TO LEAD YOU THERE.

HER WHITE SORCERY.

TO BE BLUNT, IT WAS A GAMBLE. I DIDN'T KNOW IF IT WOULD WORK.

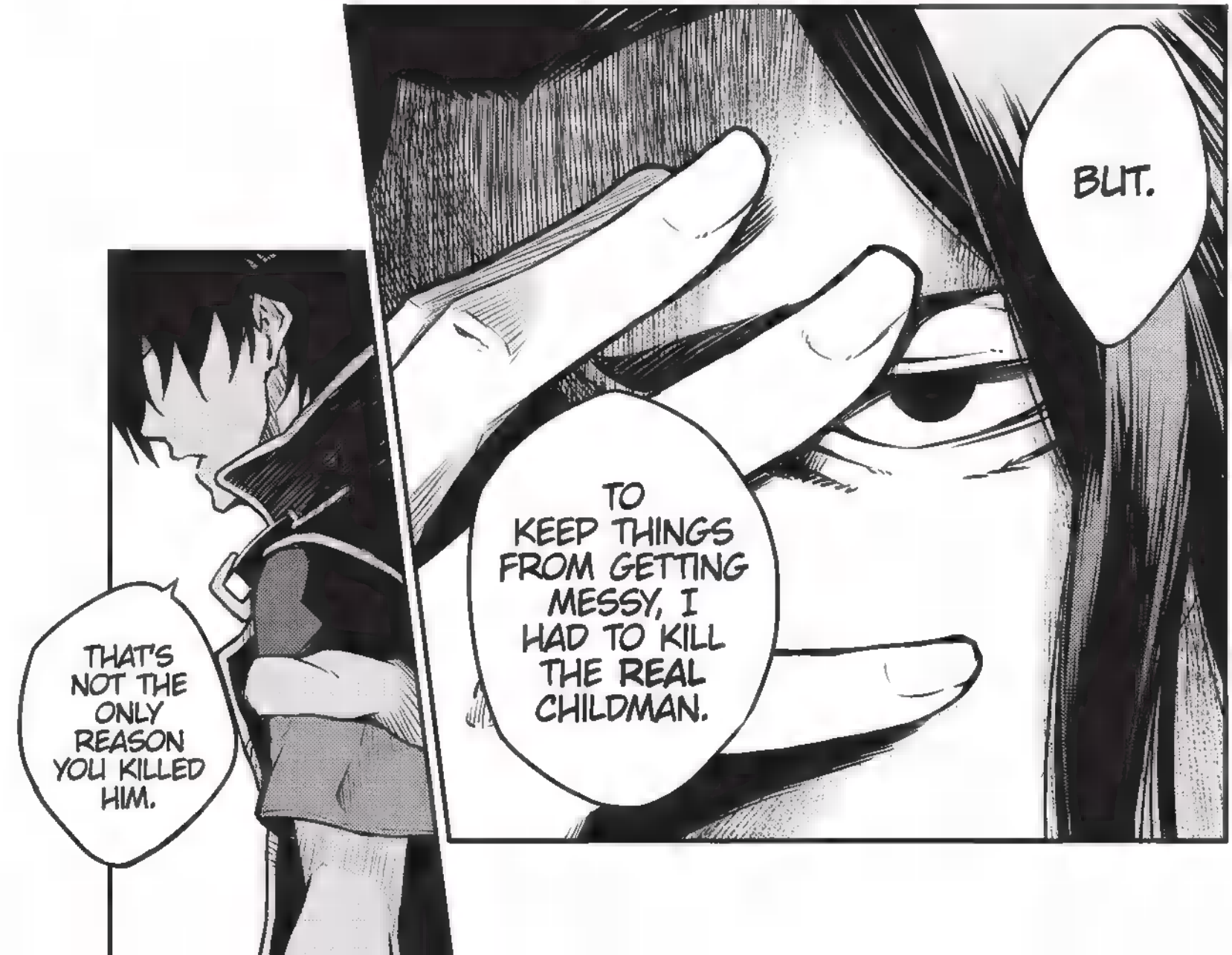
HEH.

BUT FOR ALL THAT CHILDMAN INSISTED THERE WAS NO WAY TO CHANGE ME BACK...

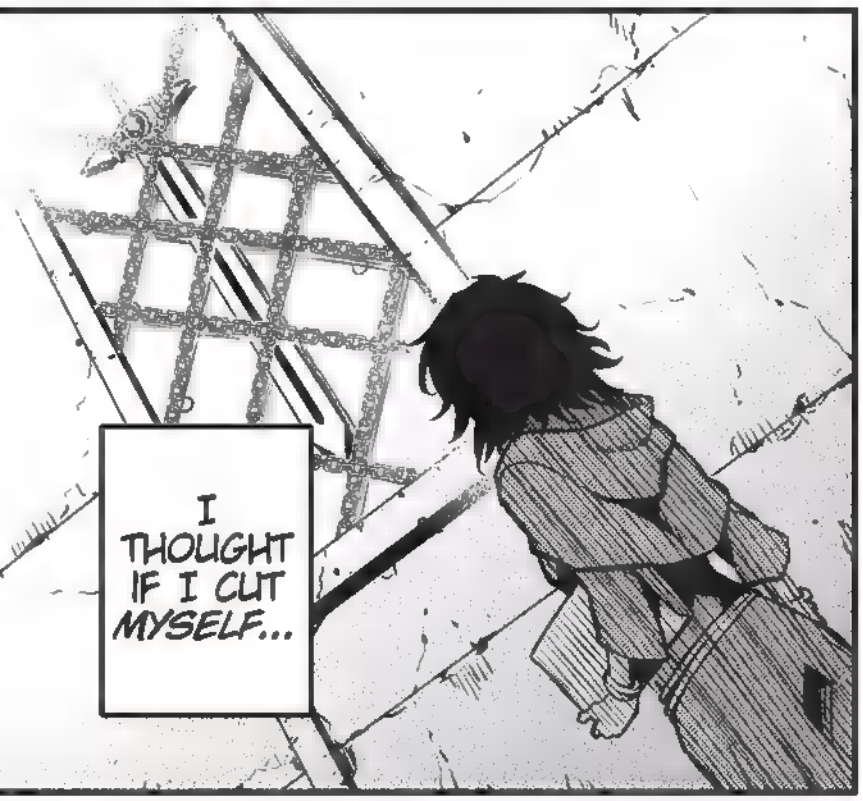
AS SOON AS HE WAS IN MY SHOES, HE FLEW STRAIGHT FOR THE SWORD OF BALDANDERS.

SO I PLAYED THE PART OF "CHILD-MAN"...
AND CONVINCED HEARTIA TO HELP ME.

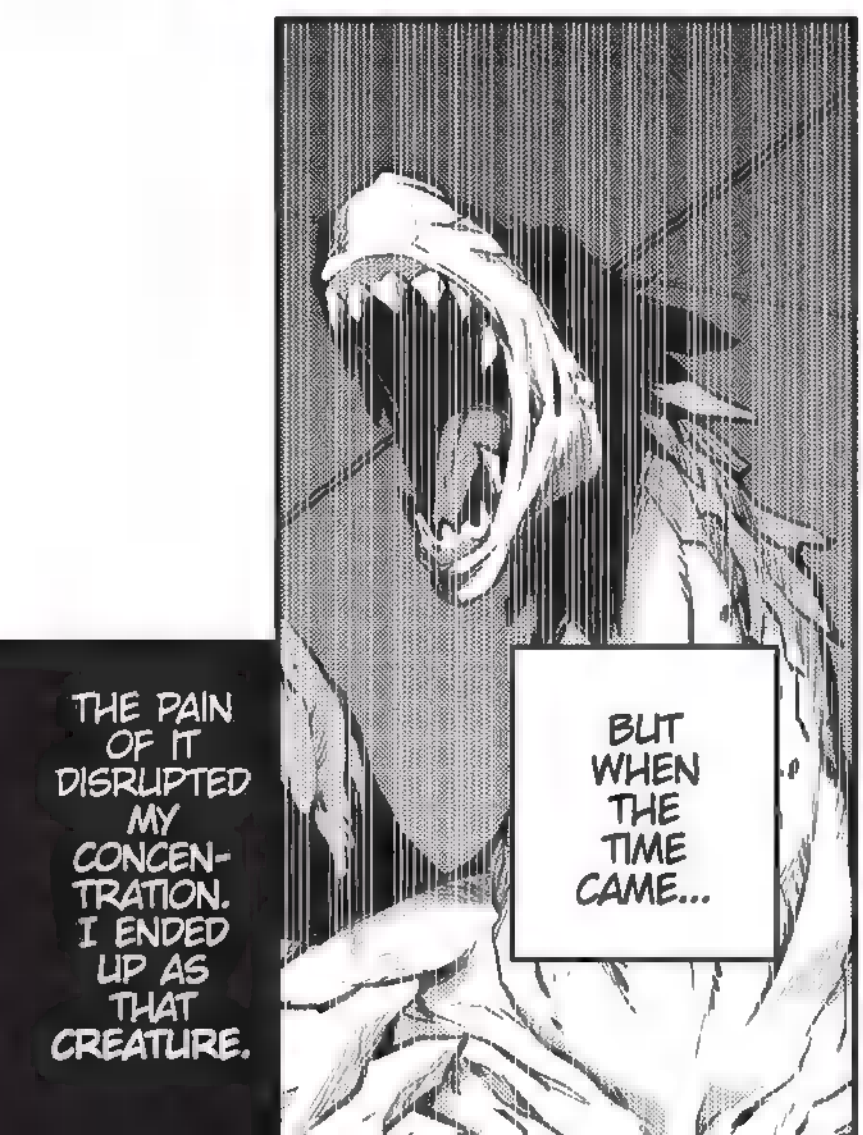
HE LANDED AT THAT MANSION.
THAT'S HOW I KNEW THE SWORD WAS IN THERE.


BUT.
TO KEEP THINGS FROM GETTING MESSY, I HAD TO KILL THE REAL CHILDMAN.
THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON YOU KILLED HIM.

YOU HAD TO REMOVE HIM AND FRAME HIM, AS THE BEAST...
FOR THE DEATH OF HIS SORCERERS.
LEAVING YOU SECRETLY FREE...
IT'S NOT THAT EASY.
TO EXPERIMENT ON THAT SWORD UNTIL YOU CAN TRANSFORM BACK.
DO YOU KNOW WHY I FAILED FIVE YEARS AGO?
DID YOU EVER STOP TO WONDER WHY A *META-MORPHOSIS* ARTIFACT WAS A *SWORD*?


I THOUGHT IF I CUT *MYSELF*...

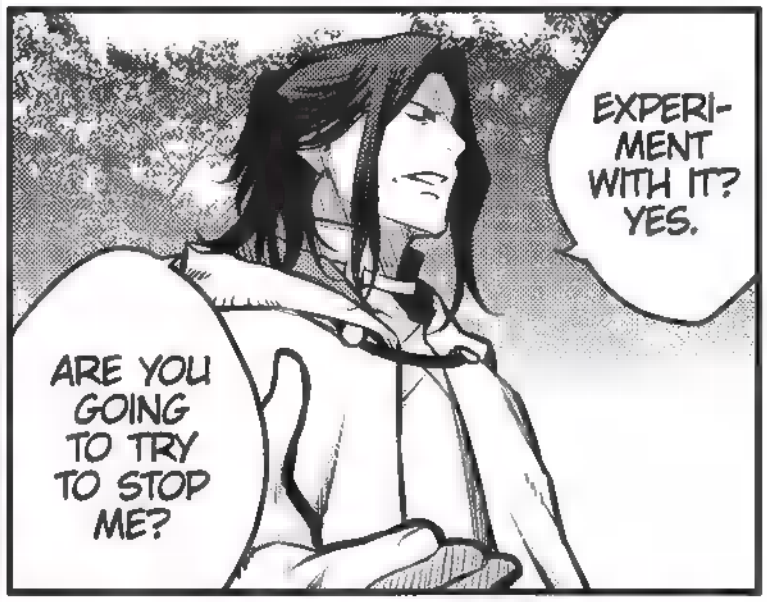
I COULD TRANS-FORM INTO WHATEVER FORM I WANTED.

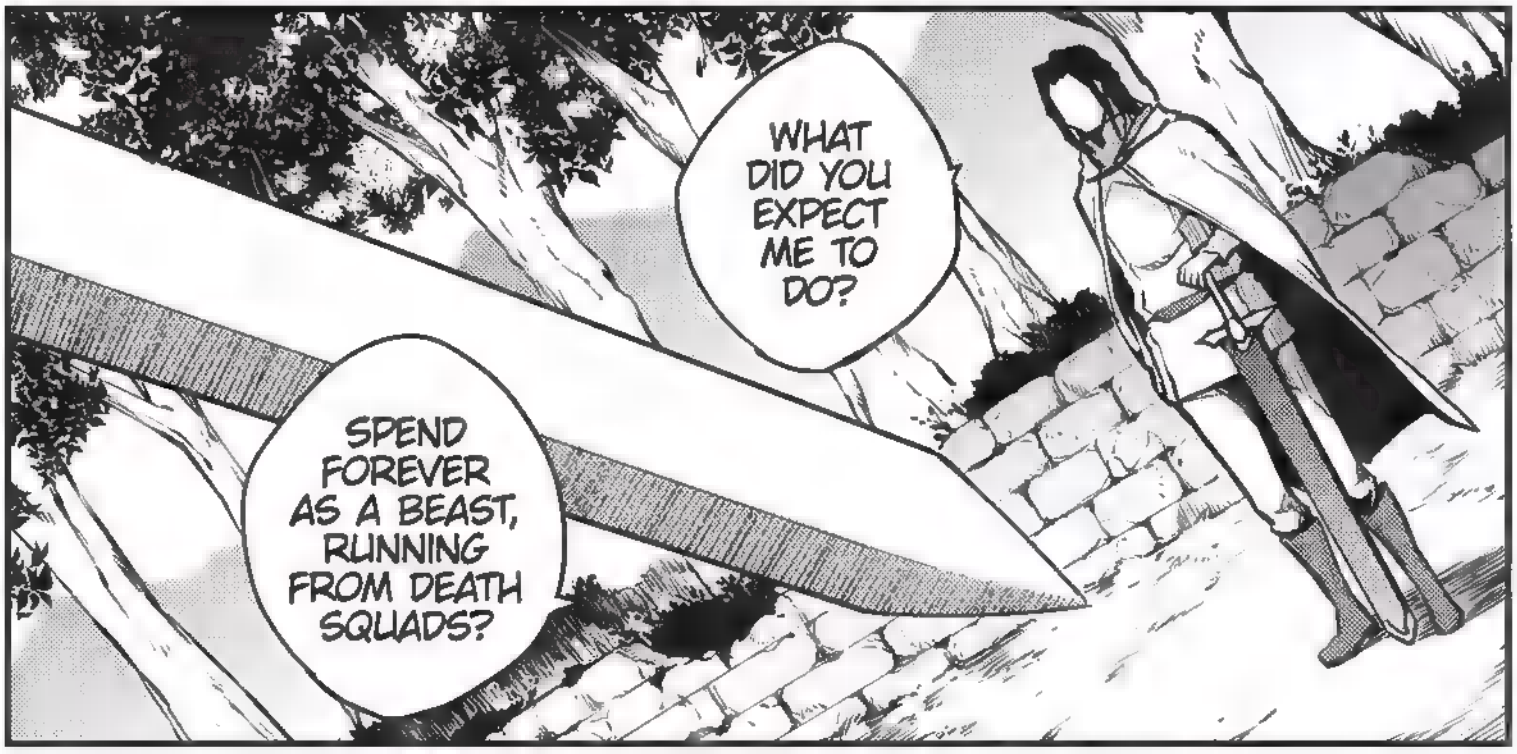

BUT WHEN THE TIME CAME...
THE PAIN OF IT DISRUPTED MY CONCEN-TRATION. I ENDED UP AS THAT CREATURE.

THE SWORD OF BALDANDERS IS A WEAPON TO TRANSFORM YOUR *ENEMY*. WHOEVER BEARS IT...
CAN CHOOSE THE FORM OF WHATEVER IT CUTS.
FOES CAN BECOME ANIMALS, OR EVEN OBJECTS.

AZALIE...

YOU MURDERED CHILDMAN.





KRYLANCELO, HE WAS TRYING TO KILL *ME*--

HE WASN'T!

TWITCH

WHY DO YOU THINK HE HID THE SWORD AND CHASED YOU HIMSELF?

WHY HE WENT STRAIGHT FOR THE SWORD WHEN YOU SWAPPED BODIES?

"YOU'RE INCAPABLE OF FIXING THIS."

"HOWEVER... PERHAPS I CAN DEAL WITH HER."

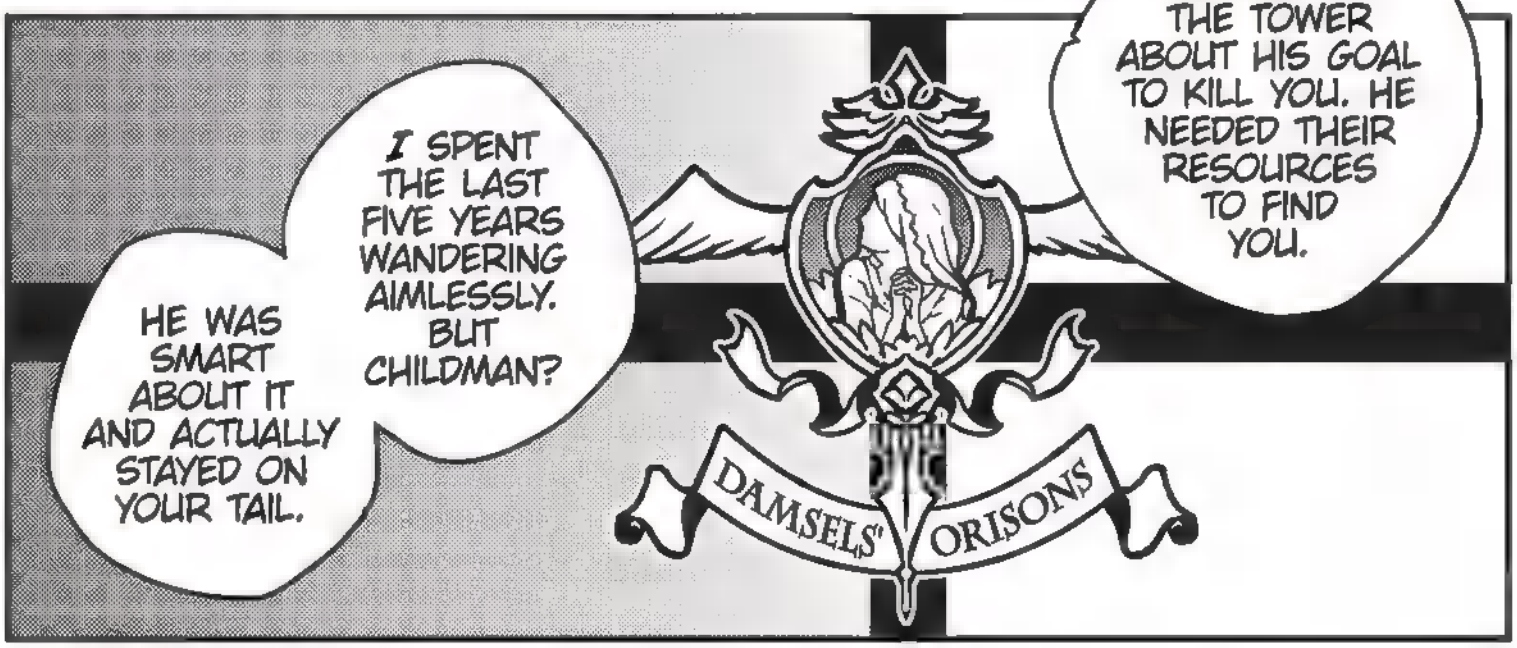
HE THOUGHT HE WAS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO MAKE IT WORK!

HE THOUGHT HE COULD HANDLE THE SWORD'S SORCERY.

CHILD-MAN WANTED TO SAVE YOU...

WITH HIS OWN TWO HANDS!

.....


HE LIED TO THE TOWER ABOUT HIS GOAL TO KILL YOU. HE NEEDED THEIR RESOURCES TO FIND YOU.
I SPENT THE LAST FIVE YEARS WANDERING AIMLESSLY. BUT CHILDMAN?
HE WAS SMART ABOUT IT AND ACTUALLY STAYED ON YOUR TAIL.
DAMSELS' ORISONS

MUTTER

WHAT A SICK JOKE.
FWIIIISH

I WANTED TO PROVE I WAS WOMAN ENOUGH FOR HIM.

IT WAS BECAUSE I WANTED THAT UPTIGHT BASTARD TO *RESPECT* ME!

LET ME TELL YOU WHY I TRIED TO USE THE SWORD TO TRANSFORM IN THE FIRST PLACE.

I GUESS THIS GOT ME WHAT I WANTED.

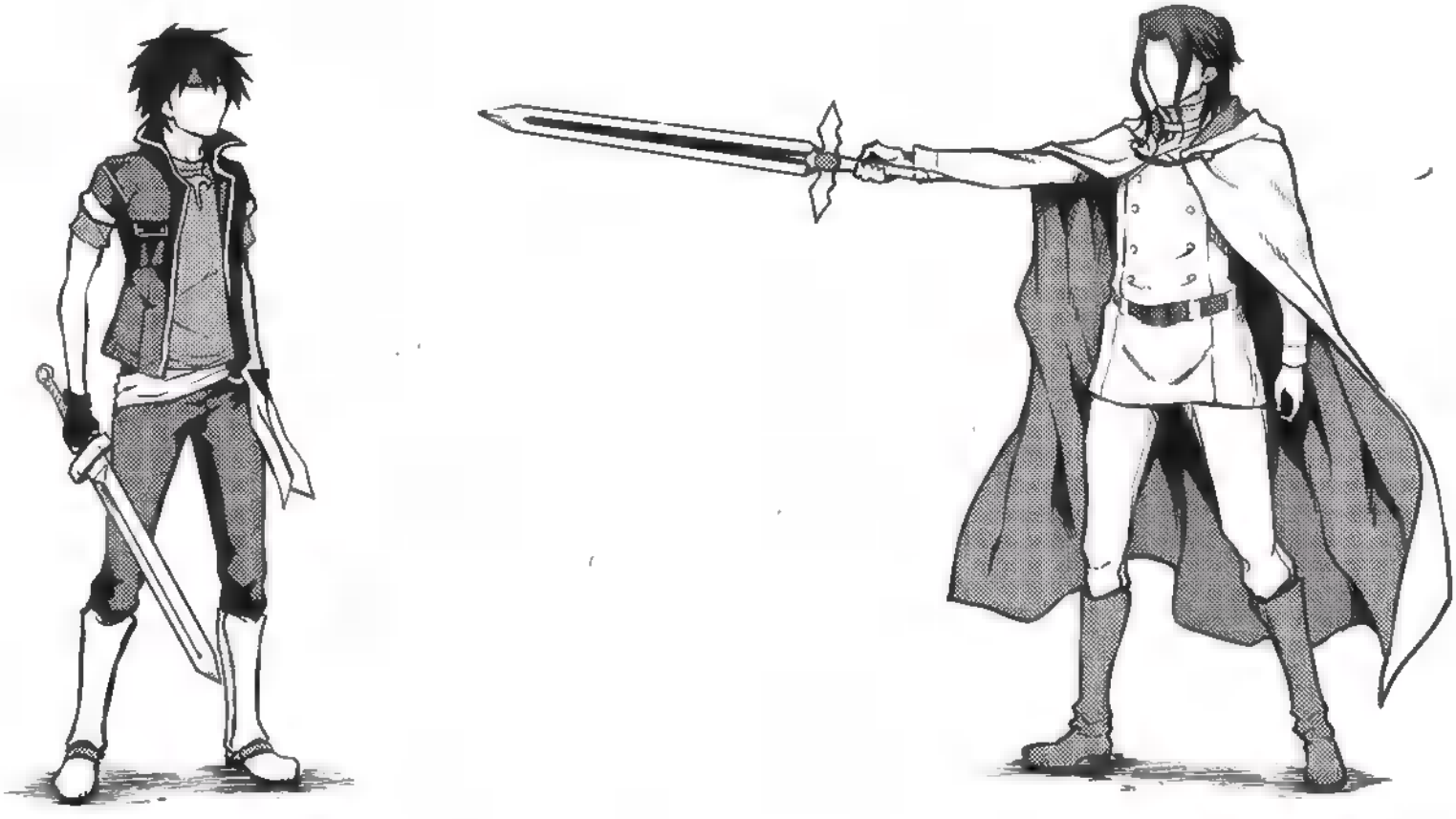
SHING

THEN WHY DID YOU...?!

DO
ON
IN THE END...
IT SOUNDS LIKE HE RESPECTED ME, AFTER ALL.

CHAK
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR THIS TO HAPPEN.
THINGS GOT...MESSY. I WAS JUST WORKING WITH WHAT I HAD.
I RAN OUT OF OPTIONS, OKAY? AND BELIEVE ME...

I WISH THERE'D BEEN ANOTHER WAY.



CHAPTER 10: THE CHAOS WITCH ②

Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN

BECAUSE OF THE *CHOICES YOU MADE, AZALIE.*

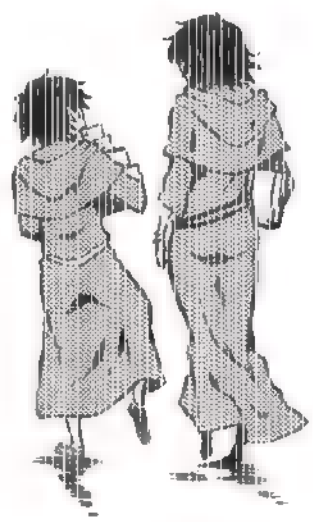
AND YOU'LL KILL ME TO KEEP YOUR SECRET, JUST LIKE YOU KILLED CHILDMAN.

NOT IF I CAN TRUST YOU.

AND ONCE I GET MY BODY BACK...

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN ON MY SIDE, RIGHT?

WE CAN BOTH ENJOY IT. OVER AND OVER.



PLEASE.
DON'T BETRAY ME MORE THAN YOU ALREADY HAVE.
HNN.

SH

HE FOUGHT WITH KNIVES AND GARROTES.
NEVER A SWORD, AND NEVER LIKE THAT.
CHILD-MAN WAS A TRAINED KILLER.

NO.
THE ONE WHO LOVED LONG-SWORDS, HORSE-BACK DUELS...
AND FLASHY COMBAT ...
SWIFF
TMP

I'M FIGHTING AZALIE NOW!
WOOSH

SHE RUSHES UP INTO HER OPPONENT'S FACE...
LEAVING JUST ENOUGH ROOM FOR ONE BIG, DEADLY LUNGE.

"BE DIS-ARMED, MY FOES."

"IF THAT'S THE CASE, IT MIGHT BE A PASSIVE SPELL THAT'S AUTO-TRIGGERED BY DANGER."
TOO SMALL TO WEAR...
PAT
BUT EASY TO SWALLOW.

HA HA...
FWIIISH
REALLY? DID YOU REALLY?!
HA HA HA HA
KRYLAN-CELO...
SNORT
THAT'S SO... STUPID!

IT'S TIME TO END THIS.

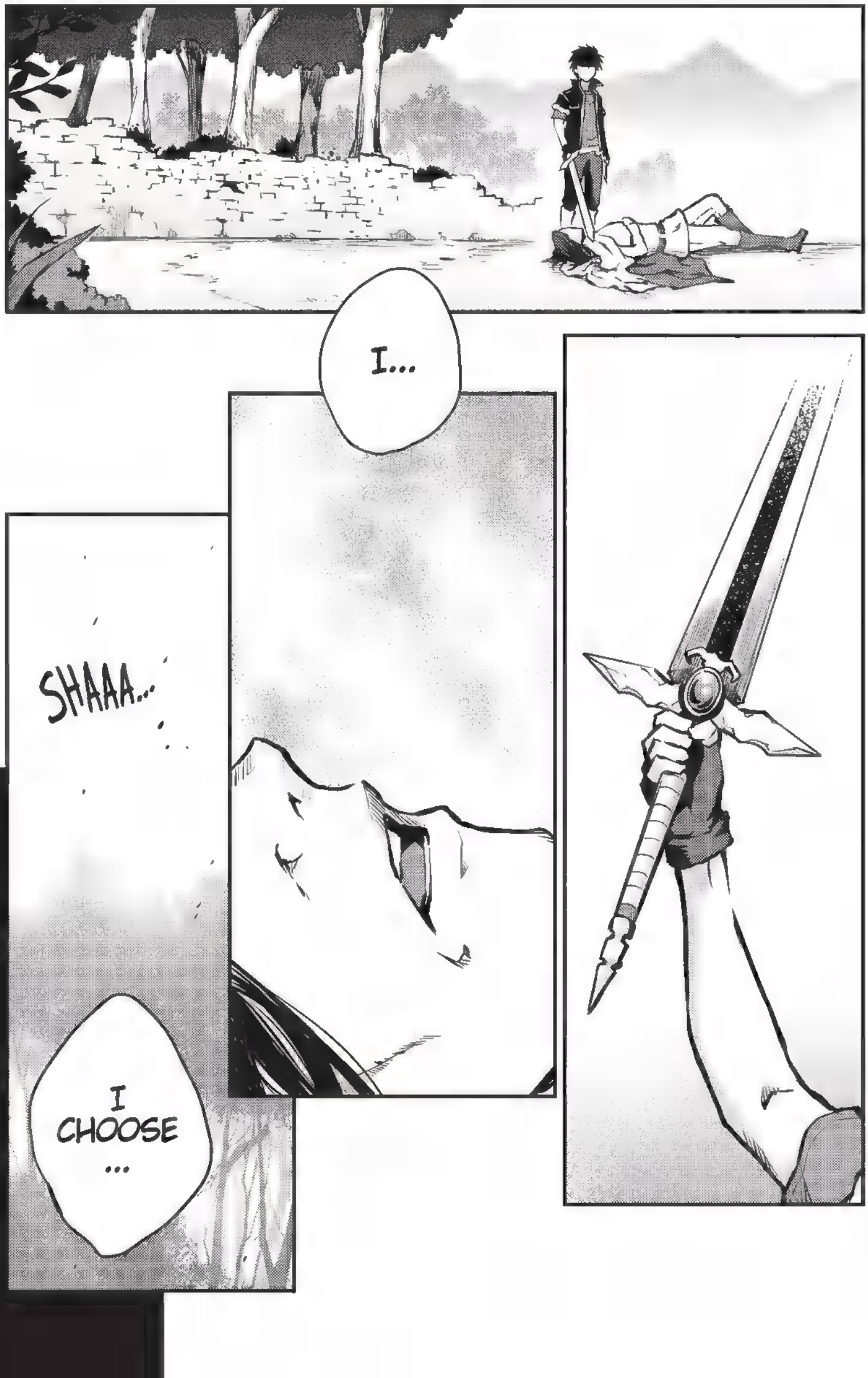
AZALIE.

WHOOSH

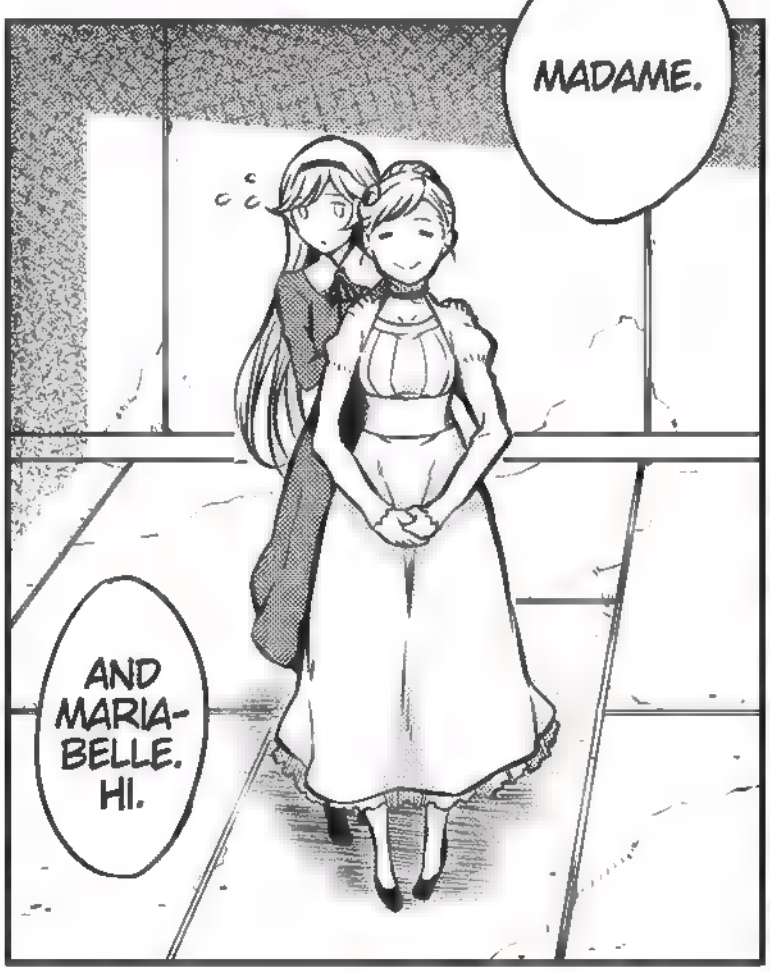
IT'S DULL AS A BUTTER KNIFE. BET IT BROKE SOME RIBS, THOUGH.
HGCK!
THAT MORON DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO MAINTAIN A BLADE. AND HE WHACKS HIS BROTHER'S IRON-HARD SKULL WITH IT.
BETTER STAY DOWN THERE, OR YOU'LL PUNCTURE YOUR ORGANS.
SEE, I BROUGHT VOLKAN'S SWORD. NOT MINE.
ARE YOU GOING TO K-KILL ME?

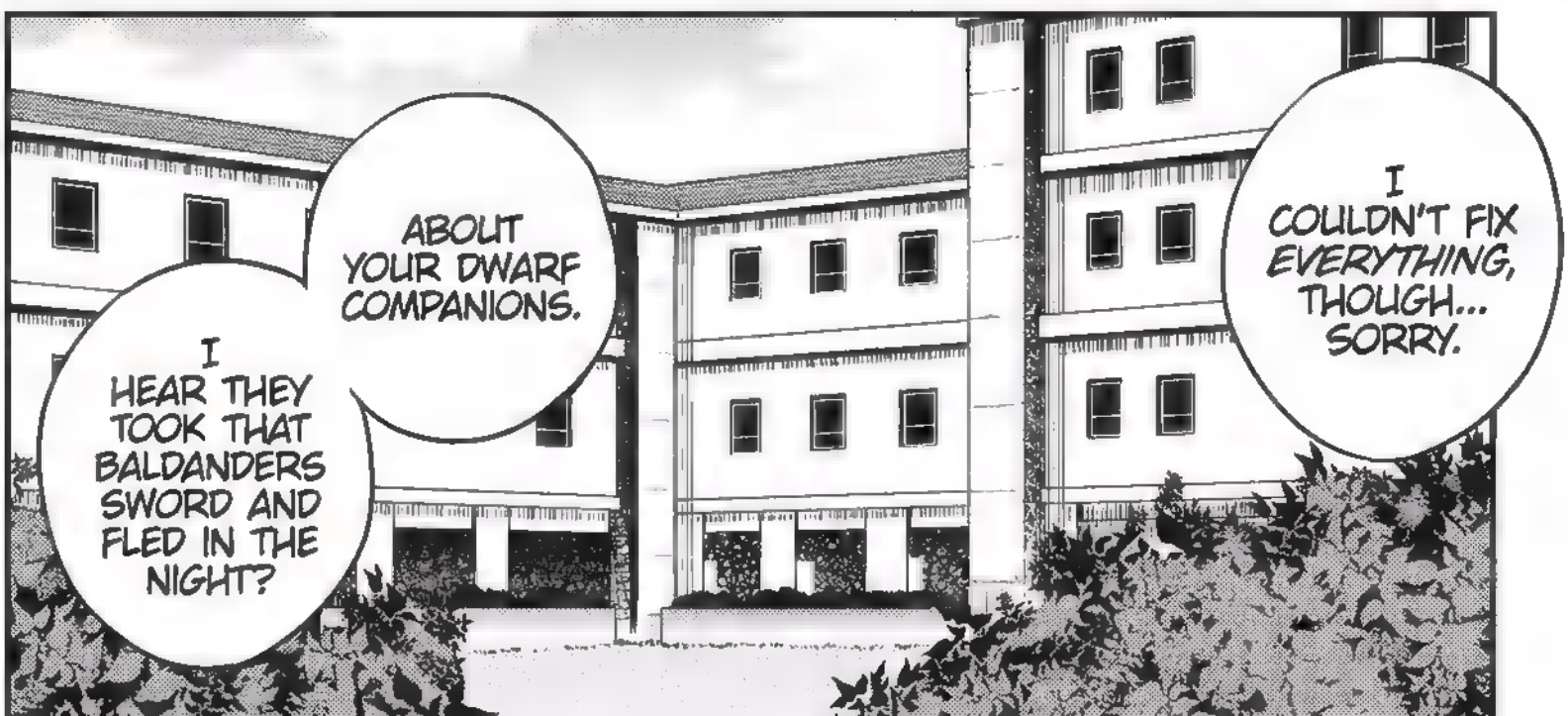
MAYBE NOT. STILL...
MY HEART HASN'T CHANGED.
SHWE
BUT YOU'RE NOT THE BOY YOU WERE THEN.
IF I WAS CAPABLE OF THAT, I'D HAVE NEVER LEFT THE TOWER.
TOSS
FLOP
THEN WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?
BUT IF YOU FEEL EVEN THE SLIGHTEST GUILT OVER WHAT YOU'VE DONE...
OR YOU CAN CHOOSE TO STAY AS CHILDMAN. OR PICK ANOTHER FORM.
I CAN USE IT TO GIVE YOU YOUR OLD BODY BACK.
THIS SWORD WILL CHANGE WHATEVER I WANT, HOWEVER I WANT, RIGHT?
I'LL LET YOU CHOOSE, AZALIE.

YOU HAD YOUR REASONS.
HUFF!
HUFF!
BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE WHAT YOU DID.
HUFF!
AFTER I TRANSFORM YOU, YOU'LL NEVER COME NEAR ME AGAIN.
YOU MURDERED CHILDMAN.


I...
SHAAA...
I CHOOSE ...

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR REPAIRING OUR HOME.


MADAME.
AND MARIA-BELLE. HI.


ABOUT YOUR DWARF COMPANIONS.
I HEAR THEY TOOK THAT BALDANDERS SWORD AND FLED IN THE NIGHT?
I COULDN'T FIX EVERYTHING, THOUGH... SORRY.

CREAK
WHERE'S CLAIOMH, BY THE WAY?
I THOUGHT SHE'D BE HERE TO SEE ME OFF.

YEAH. MY FAULT, REALLY.
I MADE THE MISTAKE OF MENTIONING WHAT THE SWORD'S PROBABLY WORTH.

HEE HEE.
?

THUNK

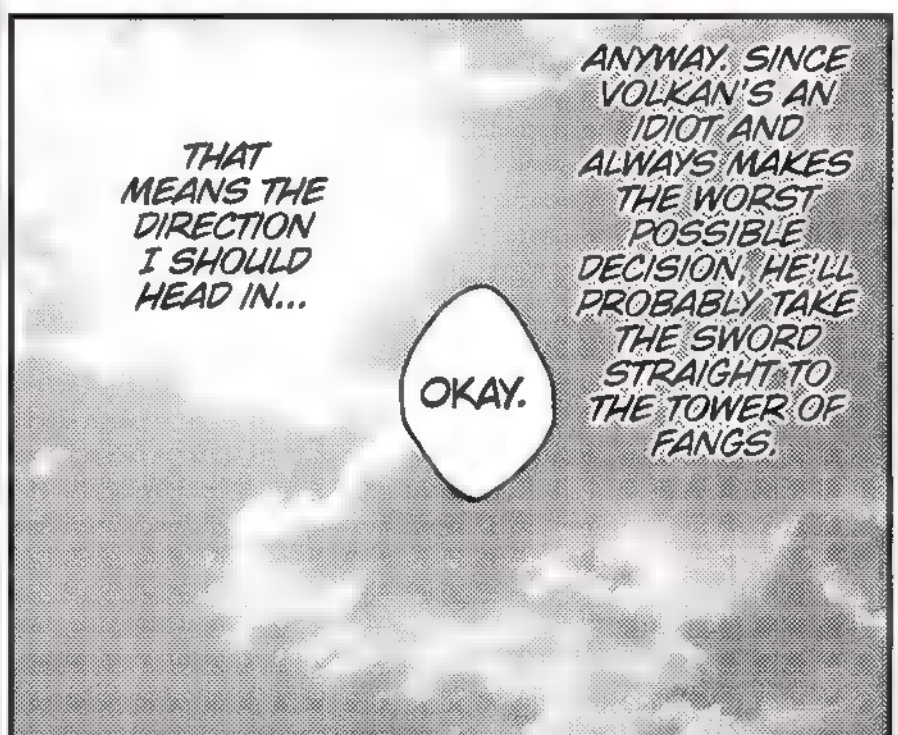
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER.
.....

CAN'T PROMISE I WON'T GET FRUSTRATED AND DRAG HER BACK.

OFF I GO.

YOU KNOW ...
AHEM.
MARRYING YOU SOUNDED RATHER NICE.

WHY ARE THESE WOMEN SO EAGER TO DIVE INTO THE COMPLETE SWAMP OF MY LIFE?


ANYWAY, SINCE VOLKAN'S AN IDIOT AND ALWAYS MAKES THE WORST POSSIBLE DECISION, HE'LL PROBABLY TAKE THE SWORD STRAIGHT TO THE TOWER OF FANGS.
THAT MEANS THE DIRECTION I SHOULD HEAD IN...
OKAY.

RATTLE ゴッ

RATTLE ゴッ

……

YAA-AAWN.

YO.

FLINCH

JUST COME OUT, WILL YA?

I'M BORED UP HERE BY MYSELF.

SWF

……

?

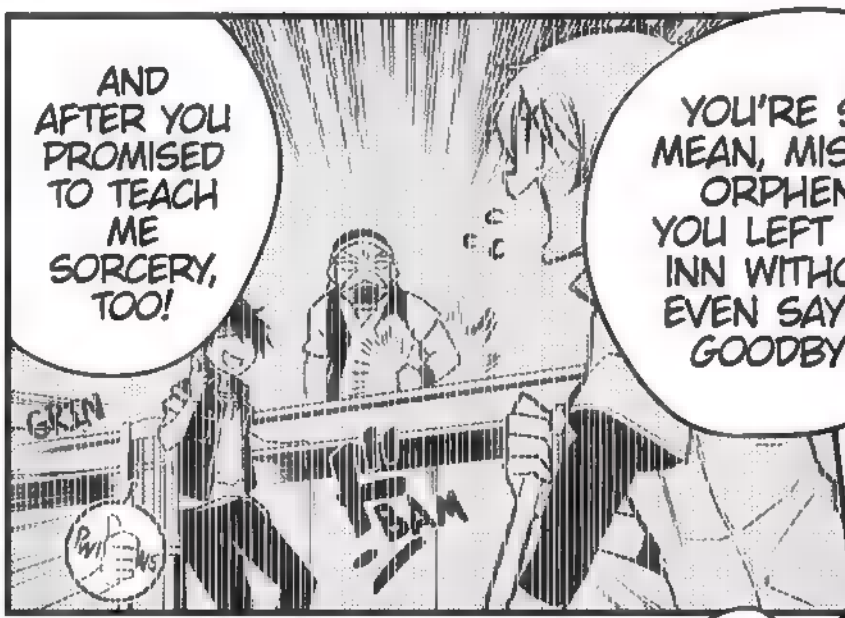
?

?

UM... WHEN DID YOU NOTICE?

THANKS A LOT, MOTHER!
SHE WANTS ME TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T DIE.

SCOOT OVER!
YOUR MOM PRETTY MUCH TOLD ME.


AND AFTER YOU PROMISED TO TEACH ME SORCERY, TOO!
YOU'RE SO MEAN, MISTER ORPHEN! YOU LEFT THE INN WITHOUT EVEN SAYING GOODBYE!

WAIT... MAJIC ?!

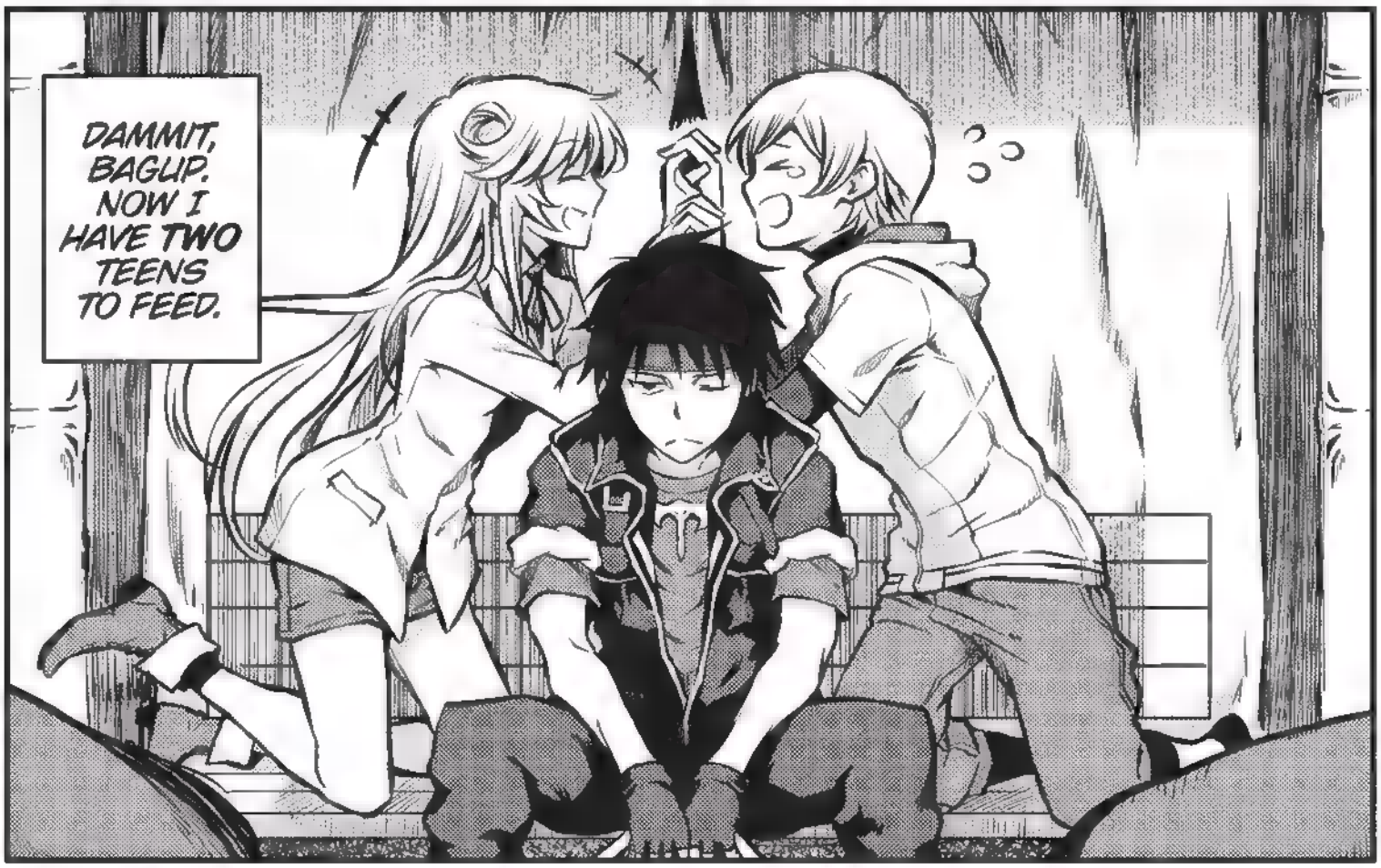
OH, YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
YEAH, BUT HOW DID YOU...
MAJIC AND I ARE CLASSMATES IN SCHOOL!

ALL RIGHT, FINE! ALL YOUR PARENTS ARE *SO SURE* I WON'T LOSE OR MAIM THEIR KID!

I EVEN GOT SOME ROBES THAT ARE KINDA... SORCERER-Y.

HE SAID AS LONG AS I GOT A TRUSTWORTHY TEACHER, I *COULD* LEARN SORCERY!

I TALKED IT OVER WITH DAD.



WHOA, HE MADE OUT WITH YOUR SISTER?!

LET'S PLAY A GAME WHERE YOU SHUT UP FOREVER!

SMOOCHY, SMOOCHY.

BY THE WAY, I SAW YOU GOT A LITTLE ACTION FROM MY SISTER.

DON'T MAKE ME PRE-EXPEL YOU FROM THE LESSONS I PULL OUT OF MY ASS, MAJIC!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE A PLAYBOY, MISTER ORPHEN!

YOU'RE SUCH A PLAYBOY, ORPHEN.

THE END

Look, Master! You should wear yours, too!
You want me to wear this thing over my head...?
This thing

Sorcerous Stabber ORPHEN

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

SORCEROUS STABBER ORPHEN

Heed My Call, Beast! Part II

story by **YOSHINOBU AKITA** / art by **MURAJI**

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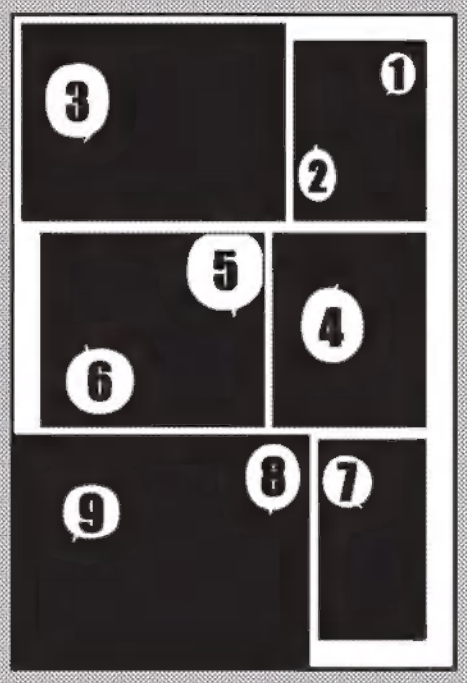

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Bloody Reunion

It's been five years since Orphen last saw his dear friend Azalie—and now he finds her, twisted into a deadly monster. The sorcerous Tower of Fangs is sending out an extermination squad to claim her head, and its leader wields the very sword that transformed Azalie in the first place. No matter the risks, Orphen's not about to give up on the woman he loves. He joins the monster hunters, secretly waiting for his chance to break the curse!

TEEN

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